

INSIDE

Soccer

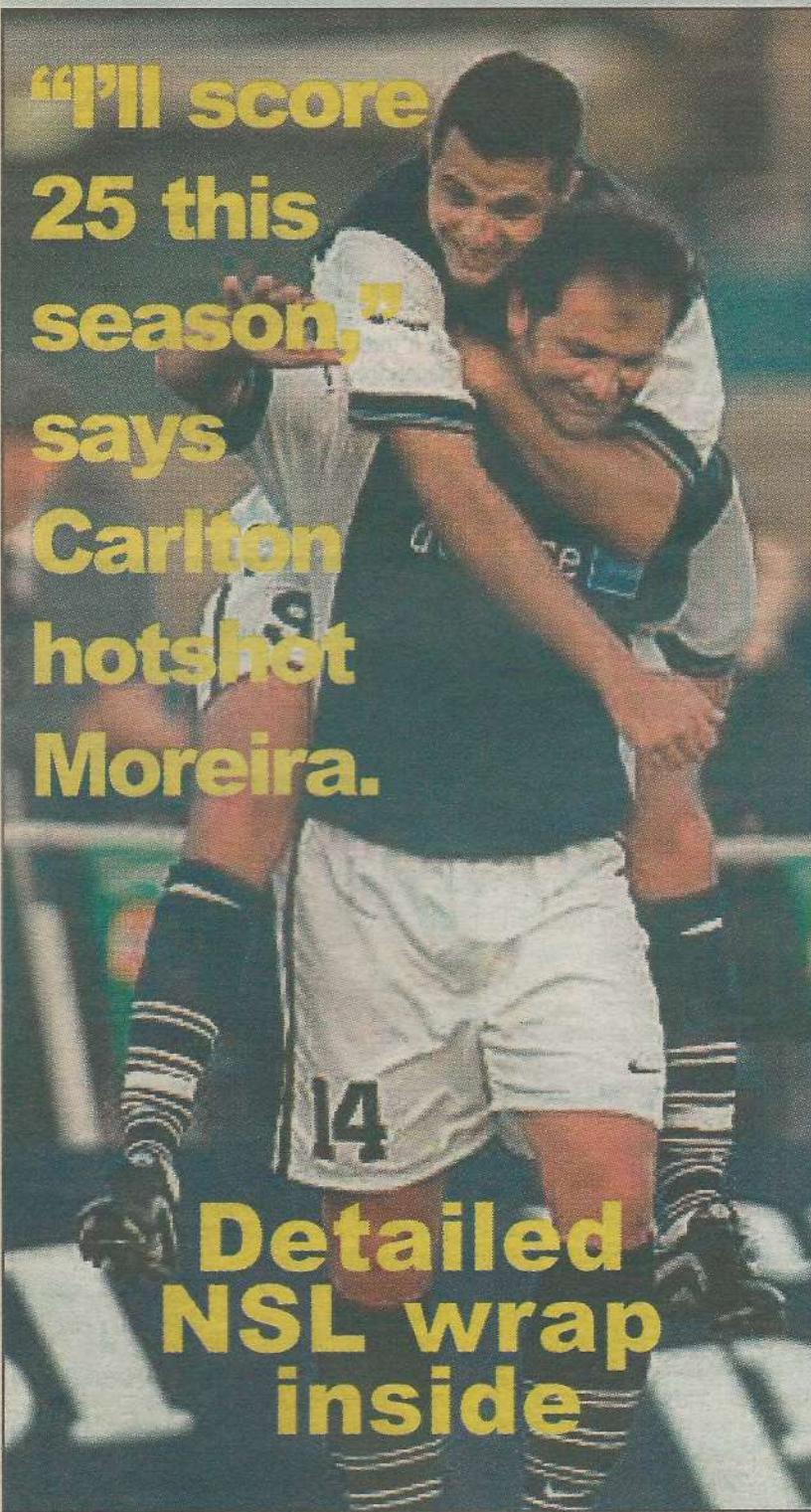
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ADELAIDE FARCE!

"I'll score
25 this
season,"
says
Carlton
hotshot
Moreira.

Detailed
NSL wrap
inside



Six months ago it was all smiles as a buoyant Zoran Matic and Ned Coten spoke at the NSL awards night in Sydney. This season was to be a new beginning for Adelaide Force, with Matic leading the way on the park and Coten, the newly-appointed CEO, given a brief to reform the club and lay the foundations for a strong new millennium based on a mainstream appeal to Adelaide's football fans.

Fast forward to last weekend and the whole plan is in tatters. Adelaide Force is still on the bottom of the league following another loss (Friday night's 2-1 reversal to Wolves), the fans have deserted them and Coten tendered his resignation on Saturday effective Jan 1, 2000.

What may have triggered Coten's shock decision was last week's members' vote to retain the traditional black and white strip and to reinstate the name 'City' to its name, while relegating 'Force' to club nickname.

Small changes maybe, but it was a slap in the face for Coten's reform agenda and a clear sign that the club's largely older migrant membership blinked in the face of change. There may have been some other related issues but Coten refused to be drawn on them. He was however not bitter about his time there. "Soccer has huge potential here in Adelaide and I wish the club all the best not only for this Friday night's game at Spirit but also for the rest of the season. I really hope this club, with all its traditions, does well in the future," he said.

Some senior players were told of the decision on Saturday but coach Zoran Matic did not find out about it until he read the Sunday papers. Matic also denied offering his resignation to the board after the Wolves game. He has promised to tough it out with his beleaguered side.

This news comes hot on the heels of the abrupt return to Scotland of Force import Derek Ferguson. Rumours abound about why but it appears family reasons and contract difficulties were to blame. He may have also questioned some of Matic's training methods.

One (unnamed) player said later: "It's been a season of shocks, mate. It's been unsettling since the pre-season; we've bloody well gone

backwards ... plus what's the point of putting this guy (Coten) in if they are not happy with what he was going to do?"

See full story on page two.

It's been a farcical few months in Adelaide. The Adelaide Sharks/Southern Stars debacle and now this provides a window of opportunity for new South Australian mainstream bids to apply to enter the rationalized NSL next year, such as the Adelaide United bid which, incredibly, was pipped by the Sharks this season.

Adelaide however did not monopolize farce over the weekend. In the Carlton match against Sydney United last Friday night an extraordinary refereeing stuff-up had the home side quite bamboozled. Carlton coach Stuart Munro told Kevin Christopher his version of the events.

"Terminello went off the pitch injured and he came on, he just got himself on the pitch and I said to the linesman 'He can't just go on the pitch, can he?' I mean, stupid me, opening my mouth. The linesman says 'No'. And the next thing the linesman runs away and starts flagging, and obviously telling him he's supposed to get booked for that, because he's on the pitch without permission. But the linesman didn't know who he was. He said it was number two (McPherson). I mean, he's picked the biggest guy on the pitch from the smallest guy on the pitch. So I've said to the referee, you know, you've shown the red card, and then he said 'Oh no, sorry, it should be a yellow'. He spoke to the linesman who said, no, it wasn't the big tall guy. And then he said, 'we don't know who it was so perhaps we'll just cancel it'!"

What was significant however was Alex Moreira's return to form. He said later his confidence was back and that is very important for him. Carlton's Brazilian striker is now joint high-scorer in the NSL with the stalled Paul Foster, both are on nine.

And finally a word about a side that rarely receives the plaudits on the national stage. Gippsland Falcons' win over Brisbane was arguably the best result of the round. Socceroo sweeper Mehmed Durakovic believes more teams will be shocked by the Falcons before the season is over.

Mehmed, we believe you.

Plus: Joey star Dylan Macallister, Aussies Abroad, Shane Pryce, Jeff Hopkins, Greg Blake, Ian Crook, Kossie from 1978 and Traci Bartlett: "I'm quitting the Matildas"

BRAKES PUT ON FORCE REFORM

Members' vote maintains tradition at Adelaide City

By Aidan Ormond

Last week was a mixed one for NSL foundation club Adelaide City Force. The revelation that the club was to move to a new club headquarters and training facility at Rams Park was tempered by the news that the members had voted to put the brakes on moves to update the club's image, while import Derek Ferguson walked out after just two games.

To top it all off, Wollongong Wolves came to town Friday night and took all three points on offer, consigning the side to another week on the bottom of the league.

The membership earlier in the week had voted to retain the name 'City', thus making the club Adelaide City Force. A minor change perhaps but the club members also voted to block attempts to alter the traditional home strip of black and white stripes.

"They (the members) felt the name 'City' had relevance to the organisation and they wanted to go back to that," said club CEO Ned Coten.

"I guess the members have a say because it's their club and that's their prerogative, but I certainly don't agree with it."

"I feel we put a good relevant argument to them about why we should stay with the name Force, having said that the name (Force) is still there as the club's nickname. We now just have to get on with the job."

The proposed orange colour to be added to the traditional black and white home kit for the start of the new millennium (the club's net site already uses orange as its main colour) has been stymied, but as Coten said the away strip may have some differing colours to it.

The good news story concerns Rams Park. It was redeveloped by News Corp to the tune of over a million dollars during the Adelaide Rams' failed Super League venture. It has excellent training facilities (the Olympic movement is using it as a training venue for the 2000 Olympic) and it comes with office space and entertainment areas.

The club - which currently trains at Unley - is in the process of buying the land, located in the north-west of Adelaide in Oakden so they can house their administration and playing staff on the same property.

Adelaide City hopes to be there around Christmas to early new year.

The members - to their credit - are raising the money (about half a million dollars) to buy the land. The club's taskforce - set up last week - is on track for raising the money according to Coten.

"I guess some of our traditional supporters are older and some are successful in business, so they want to contribute to the club this way, which I think is fantastic," he added.

Clearly this move to Rams Park will

strengthen their position regarding the NSL's entry criteria for next year's competition. Yet Adelaide City Force is no certainty to be at the starting line next season, with powerful rival bids - such as the Adelaide United group - waiting in the wings for the criteria to be announced.

And the form of the side has not helped the organisation. "It would be fair to say the crowds have dropped slightly as a result of the club's results," noted Coten.

The Derek Ferguson situation, Coten was sorry to see the diminutive Scot go. Force's CEO felt it may have been a financial situation that saw the former Glasgow Rangers, Hearts and Sunderland player return so abruptly after being persuaded to come here by fellow Scot and Adelaide soccer personality Alby Kidd.

"He may have seen some of the other clubs and what they were paying their players and felt he should have been on more, but really Zoran (Matic) is the one to speak to about that."

Word has it Zoran Matic's antiquated training techniques just weren't good enough for the classy Scot.

Matic said that it was the player's call to go (the initial deal was six weeks anyway), but it appeared Ferguson was unable to play the deep-lying role Matic had planned for him. "He wanted to go home to see his wife. He is a quality player and we wish him the best," said a magnanimous Matic.

"The Adelaide media," observed Coten, "has remained fairly optimistic, sure, when you are on the bottom you are under the pump by the media, but by and large the local media has been reasonably good to us and treated us with respect."

Coten joined the club in the off-sea-



Derek Ferguson: lasted just two games in Adelaide. "He wanted to go back and see his wife," said coach Matic.

son and has found the job of implementing the change management of this club "a challenge", but one he has enjoyed.

"It's been quite a handful these first few months in the job. I suppose it takes time to get used to the culture of soccer."

City's CEO comes from a basketball administration background in WA. "Basketball does not have as much politics as soccer. Basketball is probably seen as more hip than soccer, with more emphasis on entertainment, while soccer has more older fans here in Adelaide. Having said that, Soccer has huge potential."

And it's Coten's reform agenda at this traditional club which will ultimately see it through its most difficult challenge, making the criteria for next year's NSL.

The question is: how much latitude will the membership give him in order to achieve this?

*Three hours after this interview Ned Coten announced his resignation.



INSIDE SOCCER

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CROOKY

A lot has been written about the heroics of our goalkeeper John Perosh in recent matches but I feel it appropriate to add my sentiments.

For those of you who don't know, John Perosh was brought to Northern Spirit at the start of last year to be the number one goalkeeper, and, he came with a pretty good reputation.

His mantle as number one goalkeeper was well established during pre-season training until a young bloke by the name of Paul Henderson started performing like a cat every session.

The Northern Spirit coaching staff, headed by goalkeeper coach Steve Watson, were all amazed at his ability and took a huge risk by selecting him to make his NSL debut in our first game.

He never let go of his position.

As Paul Henderson, or Hendo as he was dubbed, (very imaginative with nicknames are the Aussies!) made cult hero status, JP was forced to sit through every match, not once pulling on the Northern Spirit first grade jumper.

His number of first grade appearances was exactly the same as his number of complaints, dummy spits and threats to leave the club! Not once did he complain.

He just kept saying, "When I get my chance I will take it".

This season that chance came when Hendo was sick and Perosh hasn't just taken it with both hands he has



plucked it from the air and grappled it to the ground - just like he has been doing with crosses and shots on goal.

In recent weeks he has proven himself to be a fantastic goalkeeper but we already knew that.

What he has also proved is what tremendous character he has and what a temperament!

It is fair to say that I have been impressed with the way he has handled himself and you just know deep down that the guy is buzzing at the way he has been playing, especially at home.

JP has won the Man of the Match Award at both our previous home games and the fans have really taken to him.

And no one deserves the recognition more than John Perosh!

Ian Crook
Northern Spirit and England

TOP SIX TAKING SHAPE

History says current top four will be there at business end of season



By Greg Blake

Coaches and players are inevitably dismissive of history, which is fair enough given that there is always a slight window of opportunity open to fly in the face of historical precedent.

But they can argue until their lips fall off, because a study of NSL history always provides a fairly accurate guide to what's to come.

Which is why I say with some conviction that the Brisbane Strikers, Sydney Olympic, Carlton and Perth Glory - the league's top four clubs after round ten - will go to the play-offs this year and Canberra, Gippsland, Northern Spirit, Sydney United and, believe it or not, Adelaide Force will be on holidays when the biggest games of the season roll around in May.

The rest of the middle order will raffle the other two play-off spots.

This is not idle speculation, but historically-based probability.

The tone of the season is always set around ten rounds into the regular season and only once in NSL history has any team come from more than two games off the pace at that point to make up lost ground and make the finals.

Since the national competition combined again as one division in 1987 the top two sides after ten rounds of the season have never gone on to miss a shot at the play-offs.

And at least four of the top six teams after ten rounds have gone on to make the finals action each year.

At best there are only two play-off places up for grabs, although a more conservative estimate would suggest there is probably only be one finals berth still on the line, even at this early stage of a long

... Brisbane Strikers, Sydney Olympic, Carlton and Perth Glory - the league's top four clubs after round ten - will go to the play-offs this year and Canberra, Gippsland, Northern Spirit, Sydney United and, believe it or not, Adelaide Force will be on holidays when the biggest games of the season roll around in May.'

campaign.

One theory is that this season's all-time longest 34-game regular season schedule might open the door to late finishers, although again history suggests otherwise.

Figures based on the only NSL seasons to be played over at least 30 rounds indicate that the longer the campaign the wider the gap between the top and bottom teams becomes.

In the previous longest home and

away campaign - in 1995/96, when 33 rounds were played - Sydney United, Marconi, Melbourne Knights, Adelaide Force and Sydney Olympic all stayed finals bound from round ten on, with the only change when Brisbane replaced West Adelaide.

As I said, every player and coach can and will argue the point, but in this league history does tend to repeat.

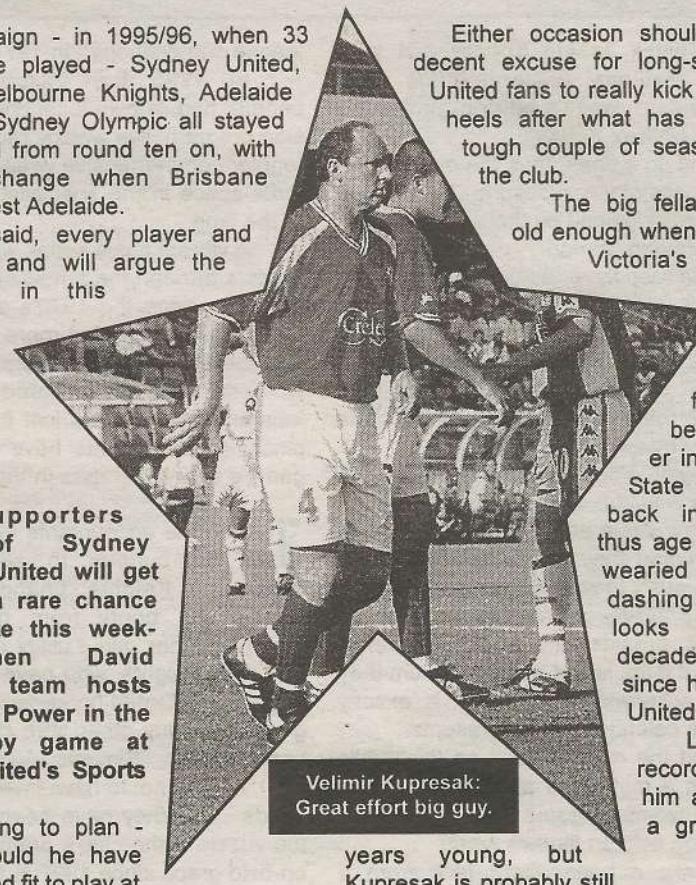
Supporters of Sydney United will get a rare chance to celebrate this weekend when David Ratcliffe's team hosts Parramatta Power in the local derby game at Sydney United's Sports Centre.

All going to plan - that is, should he have been deemed fit to play at Carlton and again this weekend - Sydney United skipper Velimir Kupresak will equal the club's long-time NSL games record of 239 appearances, currently held by former champ, Manis Lamond, against Power.

He's likely to break the club record on December 28, when United hosts South Melbourne.

Either occasion should be a decent excuse for long-suffering United fans to really kick up their heels after what has been a tough couple of seasons for the club.

The big fella looked old enough when he won Victoria's Gold



Velimir Kupresak:
Great effort big guy.

Medal for the best player in the old State League back in 1989, thus age has not wearied his dashing good looks in the decade or so since he joined United.

League records show him as being a grand 36-

years young, but Kupresak is probably still the first selected by Ratcliffe every weekend and he shows no signs of slowing up.

Kupresak is a dead-set league icon already, but he deserves something special from the club and the fans to commemorate the very special occasion.

Hopefully they'll do the right thing.

South Melb v Man Utd: The countdown to destiny

By Aidan Ormond

Make no mistake, South Melbourne's fortunes in the 2000 World Club Championships next month have plenty riding on it.

Coach Ange Postecoglou will want to showcase his coaching skills to Soccer Australia (the national U/17 and U/20 coaching positions are up for grabs), while the players are keen to show they truly are the best in the land, despite their current standing in the league. And the club itself desperately needs to convince a sceptical Melbourne public that they have a team that is worthy of support. Playing well on such a glittering and prestigious stage surely will help their cause in the AFL-aligned media in Melbourne.

Certainly Australian soccer's at times maligned domestic game will be on the line when South face the might of world club soccer. A good showing will boost our image no end, not to mention South's coffers.

Certainly South GM Damien Phillips is in no doubt the side will do Australian soccer proud. But while the club counts down to their Brazilian adventure, there are pressing issues locally. The first is the NSL entry criteria for next season. The NSL criteria delay has not impressed him.

"I'd like to think we can fit the criteria, but we still have not seen it. We thought it was Wednesday, then Friday now it's Monday that we will see it. It's a she-mozzle. How they think we can plan for the future I don't know."

The recognition level of the club is slowly building, but the media in Melbourne is still slow off the mark.

"A lot more people know us now through the Manchester United game. When you say who you work for they have an awareness of the game and how much money we are set to make."

"We are however still dealing with a naive media down here so it's going to take a little while. I still think we will be getting the big bounce in interest after the

tournament. It's mixed the sort of coverage we get here in Melbourne."

Incredibly Phillips is not going over to Brazil but there will be a media liaison officer with the squad as well as some local journo heading over there.

"You do get a bit frustrated when you see other sports getting better coverage. We just have to capitalise after the event. Maybe the 'Men of South' calendar like the Matildas!" he joked.

The slow start for the back-to-back champs is not something he is overly concerned about. "On the park, it's early days. And the Power game was a superb match, probably the best of the year. Good crowd and very passionate. We don't need to lie about our figures. They (the South fans) have been dead quiet thus far this year, so it was great."

There have been stories floating around about Carlton perhaps sharing South's facilities at Lakeside. While not denying it, Phillips did pour cold water on it getting up.

"The discussions regarding the ground sharing with Carlton has bobbed up in discussions with the respective presidents of each club. It is only a remote possibility given the government's ownership of the ground. If this did happen we would have to improve facilities and the parking situation."

Parks Victoria and the state government own the ground. "We have a long-term lease," he added.

So is South Melbourne still a club for Greek Australians, or is there a widening of the fan base?

"Cross-over support from our database shows around 20-30% of club members are non-Greek, which is an improvement. To really bring in the new fans we would also have to build the facilities to bring more fans in, by that we are talking about building a boutique 20-30,000 all-seater."

"These are all plans down the track."

Like I said, there is much riding on what happens in January in Brazil, both short and long-term.



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WHICH OTHER TEAMS WILL THE MATILDAS PLAY IN THE AUSTRALIA CUP IN JANUARY 2000?

1 _____ Name:

2 _____ Address:

3 _____



GREG BLAKE
C7 SOCCER COMMENTATOR
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Last week 'Inside Soccer' led with the Matildas' tits and bums campaign in last week's edition, under the banner of 'Sex Sells'.

And so it does, thus the overwhelming success of the exposure - literally and figuratively - gained by the women so far, both here and abroad.

The response has been huge to say the least.

I will preface the following by saying that the women do thoroughly deserve any publicity, sponsorship and public support that they glean from the whole nude calendar thing.

Having done some television work with the Matildas and the Victorian state girls a few years back I am fully aware of how devoted they are to the game and how seriously they take their involvement.

I'll probably get howled down for the previous breasts and backsides reference, but if the ladies are fair dinkum they should acknowledge that that is exactly what the calendar thing represents.

And the overt assault on the public via such a method is also an admission that the women's game here in Australia cannot be sold on its own merits.

That's a huge about face from a body which has, even in the recent past, been at pains to ensure the public face of woman's soccer was based on the integrity of their game and not at all demeaned by specific or implied sexual references based on gender.

As I said, I'm a great believer in the game in general doing whatever it takes to grab attention, but I hope the AWSA understands that you can't have it both ways and that the tone is now well and truly set.

There is no longer any moral high ground to retreat to if Amy Taylor gets wolf-whistled instead of cheered next time she pulls on the green and gold.

Pop the champagne corks and hand out the cigars. Well, perhaps more a case of take a swig from the spumante bottle and light up a Craven-A.

For once again the bean-counters from the Victorian Soccer Federation have come up trumps by announcing an operating profit for the last financial year of some \$33,259.

It is the third consecutive year in which the VSF has bolstered its coffers by a modest amount after nearly a decade of operating in the red.

And by turning around the annual deficit the VSF has fulfilled the commitment made to member clubs a couple of years back to achieve just that aim.

But you've got to ask, at what cost to the profile of the game itself?

Particularly for such a modest fiscal return.

Operating budgets might have blown out too often during the 1990's, but as little as five years ago the VSF's shop-window Premier League competition did at least command a degree of respect.

Interest in the Victorian state competition was as healthy as at any time in the near 20-year period since the NSL was formed - at the expense of all the state

league competitions - in 1977.

In 1995 the Victorian Premier League had its own local one-hour television program, live weekly radio coverage, regular comprehensive wrap-ups and editorial space in the specialist newspapers of the time.

A vibrant finals series which dragged punters through the turnstiles in numbers not seen since the 1970's and even the major dailies provided more than what is now merely a results service, at best.

All have disappeared and all the momentum of the era lost as the penny-pinching accountants have become the game's new superstars in Victoria.

Just on the accountants in the game, I will be curious to see how the Melbourne Knights' financial advisers handle the booty from their newest money-spinner, gifted utility Zeljko Susa.

The Knights, who have managed to ship more talented horse-flesh around the globe than any other NSL club in recent years (Tiatto, Simunic, Viduka, Horvat etc.), appear not to have invested the proceeds - and they have been significant - too wisely, if the club's dramatic fall from on-field grace since 1997 is any guide.

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health of some poor, misguided West Adelaide/Adelaide Sharks fans.

However, I certainly have a deeper understanding of why their club no longer exists in the NSL, at least if these whackers' opinions are any guide.

Thanks to a couple of South Melbourne fans I happened on to one 'chat-room' devoted to the Victorian club and found message after message from "devastated" Shark supporters now declaring their allegiances to the Victorian club. Because of the 'Greek' connection, you see.

I fully appreciate the emotional ethnic ties and all, but to read the ramblings from these South Australian idiots suggesting that they hope Adelaide Force goes down the gurgler as well and that they will not attend any more NSL games unless their 'adopted' South Melbourne is in Adelaide to play Force defies any logic at all. Good plan, eh?

While clubs like Perth, Northern Spirit, Parramatta, Brisbane, Wollongong, Carlton, Newcastle and, yes, even South Melbourne start to genuinely extend interest in the game outside the extremely limited borders of single-entity ethnic groups, these bozos are hanging on to the very ties which bought the Sharks unstuck in the first place.

Far be it for these bizarre Croweters to get behind the other SA-based club, it appears that they hope the one surviving local NSL club hits the skids as well.

And then what do they do when they can't even see their 'beloved' South Melbourne even once a year?

Honestly, what colour is the sky on the planet they're living on?

Just to alert the still troubled Sharks faithful to the folly of staying rooted too much in the past, please take note that so-called 'Greek'-backed NSW former super club Sydney Olympic is also getting the staggers.

If media reports are to be believed the club is losing somewhere around \$100,000 per week and owner Nick Politis is understandably not particularly buoyant at that news.

C7 colleague Michael Cockerill reports that Politis wants out and that unofficial negotiations with non-ethnically aligned Northern Spirit may have already taken place.

It's a sign of the times and unless Olympic and a few other clubs take note and follow up with decisive action they may wind up rooted in more ways than one.

Which brings me to Adelaide Force, a club supposedly going through a period of significant change in a bid to stave off the challenge of an Adelaide super-club taking its place as South Australia's sole representative in the NSL.

Apparently not if the club's old guard have their way.

'Too much change too soon' they declared last week, insisting that the club's Juventus-inspired colours and design remain and that the club be known as Adelaide City Force.

What is it with these people?

If the shining example of West Adelaide wasn't enough to shake them from their lethargy, what will?

At this pace Adelaide United is a dead cert to get the nod when the league is 're-launched' for season 2000/2001.

'Hrmph,' was the last indignant grunt heard from former Glasgow Rangers star, Derek Ferguson, as he headed to Adelaide Airport to catch the first flight home after a modest two games with Adelaide City Force.

I'm told Ferguson wasn't overly impressed with the coaching methods of



Adrian Cervinski: there's no place like home

Force boss Zoran Matic, although I'm also told that few at the club were particularly impressed by Ferguson's efforts to fit in.

Sounds like decent grounds for divorce.

Just so that we are all on our toes we'll make it a weekly duty to keep you updated on the league's 'Hanging Judges', the referees leading the red card pack throughout the season.

After the opening ten rounds of the season the men most likely to invite some startled NSL player in for an early bath are Kiwi newcomer Derek Rugg, evergreen Matthew Breeze and Con Diomis, each of whom has five victims thus far in 1999/2000.

This one's nothing more than an interesting stat, and even that is debatable.

But Northern Spirit's on-field problems appear to stem from the fact that they are as slow as the proverbial treacle getting out of the blocks each week.

Going into last weekend's round 11 game at the Knights Graham Arnold's team had failed to score a single goal in the opening half hour of any of its last 14 matches, but have gone behind by at least one goal in the same opening 30 minute period in nine of those games.

OK, it might not be earth shattering news but I thought you may like to know.

SBS has only a modest share in the domestic competition these days but kudos for former colleague Kyle Patterson and gnarled NSL veteran Andy Harper and his made-for-TV head.

Their review of the league last Monday night on 'World Sports' was must-watch territory.

Informative, bright, relaxed, humorous and bereft of any spurious 'issues' to bog it down, Kyle and Andy's package of the weekend action was right on the money.

And just on prolific NSL strikers, it seems Adrian Cervinski should probably have never left the Melbourne Knights.

To the end of ten rounds Cervinski had knocked in three goals in his six games since returning to Knights Stadium from Sydney Olympic in October, with his career figures at Melbourne Knights now 37 goals in 71 games and a Knights average of a remarkable 0.52 goals per game.

Since leaving the Knights first time around his combined totals in stints with Wollongong, Carlton and Olympic drop away to a lamentable 6 goals in 31 games, at just 0.19 per game.

Sometimes there really is no place like home.

S-NEWS

INSIDE SOCCER'S
AUSTRALIAN
NEWS AND GOSS

MITCH IN THE MOVIES

How many Socceroos are mentioned in European movies? Not too many but Power's Dave Mitchell is one. The former Feyenoord striker was discussed during the SBS Thursday movie 'All Stars' - about a group of Dutch guys who have played football socially over the years, culminating in their 500th game. The players talk about great players of the past, mentioning Feyenoord's David Mitchell as one of their favourites. Any other Socceroos mentioned in movies? Let us know.

E-MAIL THE SOCCEROOS

You can now E our Socceroos at socceroos@webcity.com.au. And still on the national team, our mole inside the Munich 1860 dressing room tells us that Ned Zelic is now not talking to Paul Agostino. Poor Ago, he must be thinking 'what have I done?'. Speaking of Agostino, how long will it be before a sub-editor comes up with the name 'Viago' for our 'potent' and 'penetrative' strike-force of Viduka and Agostino? Hopefully a long long time.

COLOSIMO PUTS COLE CASE ON HOLD

Speaking to Carlton's excellent site (www.carltonsoccer.com.au) Simon Colosimo is looking forward to putting the past behind him. On Manchester United's Andy Cole and his feelings about the tackle, Colosimo said, "I got over [the bad feelings about Cole] a little while back." [Legal action against Cole and United] has been shelved for a good while. If everything goes well, it will be shelved completely." On his return to the National League with Carlton, Colosimo said, "I'm hoping to return with 8 or 10 games to go. That'll probably be in March or April. I'll be looking to come back for the finals."

TOLIOS TODDLES OFF

Promising young Carlton Academy defender Nick Tolios is currently in England trialling. His family organised a trial with Aston Villa and the youngster, seemingly desperate to make his mark, decided to go. Deniz Ekici and Nick Tolios were nominated for the Southern Youth League Player of the Year award last season. The question is: should Villa sign him, will Carlton be able to pick up a transfer fee for him? Reports suggest they may not be able to because of the type of contract he has signed with Carlton.

LOVE IS IN THE AIR ... LITERALLY!

Parra Power's Strength and Conditioning Coach Hayden Knowles surprised his girlfriend Nicole with a proposal on the plane on the way to Brisbane, in front of the entire team! With the help of Operations Manager Angela Travis, Hayden organised with Ansett for Nicole to be seated at the front of the plane, unaware he was already in his seat at the rear. She thought he was already in Brisbane preparing for the team's arrival! Hayden had recorded a message to Nicole, which was played over the loudspeaker on the plane when they were in the air, asking her to be his wife! The whole team witnessed

the proposal and cheered Hayden on as he walked down the aisle of the plane to sneak up behind Nicole with a bunch of flowers and the engagement ring! Nicole happily agreed and everyone at the Power and S-news wishes them all the best in their future together.

OZ SOCCER DOPPLEGANGERS

Is there any truth in the rumour that Ange Postecoglou and Jon Angelucci are long lost relatives? The fact that they both have 'Ang' in their names makes it all the more spooky, don't you think? Here are some other lookalikes from Australia's soccer community: Stuart Munro and Paul Gascoigne? Michael Cockerill and Dutch keeper Edwin Van der Saar? Brett Hughes and any bald wrestler from the WWF? Vilson Knezevic and Lurch from the Adams Family? Dion Valle and Shirley Temple? Paul Wade and Phar Lap? (in joke, see last week), Danny Invincible and the guy from Savage Garden? Les Murray and Jerry Springer? Ante Kovacevic and any male character from Shakespeare in Love? Ah, the list goes on.

NEED A PLAYER?

Last week Singapore captain Nazri Nasri was in Australia on holiday. The 28-year-old is considered the best player in his country but was without a club at time of going to press, having not been retained by his club SAFFC. Aussie coach Alan Vest is hopeful he

will have Nasri at his side Geylang Utd. What about an NSL club?

SOUTH SIGNS ROCHE

24-year-old Chris Roche from Victorian Premier League side South Dandenong. Roche has been

signed by South Melbourne on a one-year contract in time for him to travel to Brazil next month for the FIFA World Club Championship. "Chris did pre-season with South Melbourne and we felt this was a good chance to sign a third goalkeeper for Brazil," coach Postecoglou said.

Meanwhile South defender Steve Iosifidis played his 100th game for South last Sunday at Perth, while Sydney United has registered promising Andy Rakic, 19, from Canberra Deakin

POWER CREDIT UNION

Vince Del Zio is a soccer mad fan. He also happens to be CEO of Power Credit Union, the principal sponsor of Parra Power. Del Zio, whose son recently spent a few weeks in England training with Premier League clubs, has an offer to all soccer supporters. Power Credit Union has a low personal loan rate of 9.49% p.a. You can phone on 1300 654 477. Always happy to help companies willing to put their hands in their pockets to support soccer in this country.

DI FABRIZIO BACKS NEW ERA

The big man of Gippsland Soccer, Don Di Fabrizio has realized that if Falcons are going to survive in the new era of Australian club soccer, it has to change. That is why he has thrown his support behind the concept of the new Gippsland Sports and Entertainment Club. It's great to see the elders of the game, who have the respect they deserve, embracing necessary change.



Angelucci and Ange.

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POWER STIFFED BY REFS

Comment by Greg Blake

Not that they've grizzled too much about it, but coach David Mitchell and his Parramatta Power boys have every right to feel a bit cheated about the treatment they've received on their last two visits to Victoria to play Melbourne clubs.

Amidst all the controversy regarding the harsh standards being set by NSL officials this season Parramatta have been dead-set stiffed on both visits - thanks to what the refs and their 'assistants' have apparently missed.

Seven players were booked and Lubo Lapsansky sent-off for what seemed a fairly second offence in Power's 3-1 win at Carlton in round 8, yet referee Brett Hugo and his team went missing when Steve Berry appeared to be flattened by a round-arm elbow to the gob by an un-named assailant.

In the club's round 10 defeat at South Melbourne Jacob Burns was dismissed early and three others went into Matthew Breeze's little book of all things illegal, but nobody caught the alleged culprit who's elbow turned big Joe Vrkic's nose into bloodied mush.

Neither Berry or Vrkic are the type of players to feign injury or whinge too much to the officials, so you suspect that the alleged incidents did take place.

So while it's all very well to tow the FIFA line and crack down on tackles from behind etc., how about we also concentrate on keeping a lid on the big hits as well?



Joe Vrkic (white shirt) playing against South. What about the elbow to his face?

Sydney United-turned-Parramatta Power wonder-boy, Joel Griffiths, was always going to be asked the question in his second full season at NSL level.

Now a marked man, Griffiths was to some degree written-off early season, with C7 colleague Paul Wade suggesting that Griffiths was struggling to recapture anything like his rookie season form.

I reckon the kid has stamped his own passport to future stardom by standing up to the pressure big-time, particularly that born of the weight of expectation.

Griffiths has stood up on-field to lead Power's goal-scoring into last weekend and he's thumbed his nose at critics who were prepared to jump off the bandwagon just as quickly as they'd leapt on.

Ram

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JEFF HOPKINS: EXPERIENCE COUNTS

By Aidan Ormond

Jeff Hopkins is a class act. He has nothing to prove to anyone in Australian soccer, yet at the NSL season launch - on the picturesque Sydney Harbour - he was hardly noticed among the so-called glamour names (largely Sydney-based) of the league. He kept quietly to himself as he surveyed the scene.

Yet this is a defender who has represented Wales 16 times, playing alongside legends such as Ian Rush, together with an 18-year professional career in the rough and tumble of English football.

His career - while not spectacular - afforded him the highest honour: respect from his fellow professionals in the UK and later in Asia.

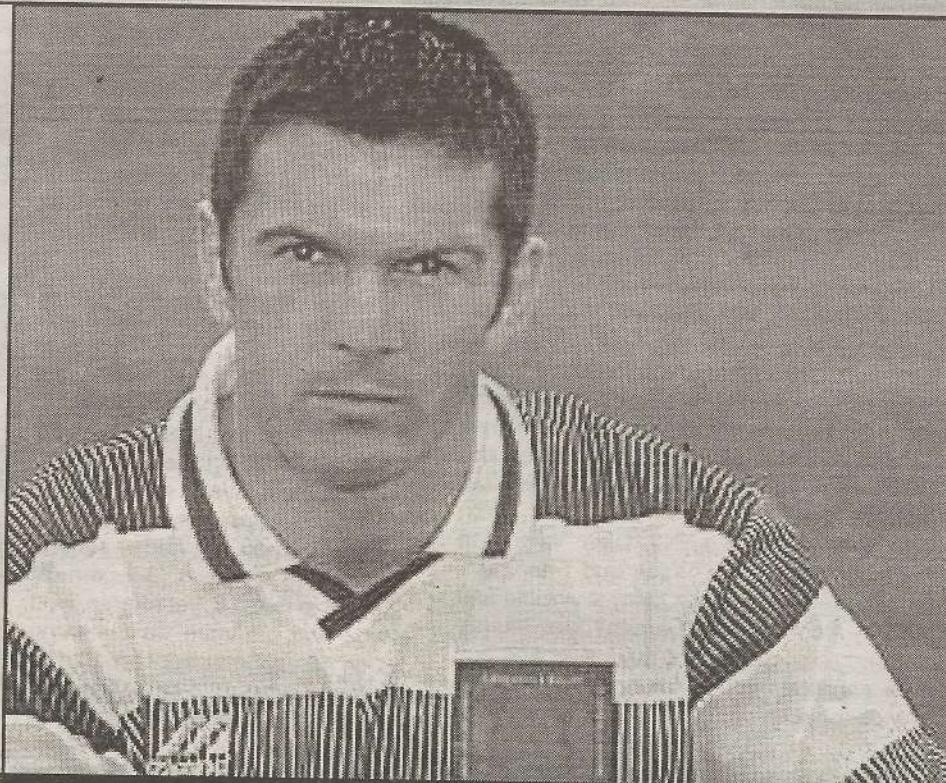
Word has it England's Ian Wright rated Hopkins as one of the toughest he had to face, and Wright was no shrinking violet.

Ending up in Gippsland last year as a player (via Malaysia), in his first year as player/coach at the same club this season Hopkins has fashioned a side that is defensively well-organized, committed and capable of springing the odd upset (Spirit and Breakers recently?)

He names one of his former coaches, England's Steve Coppell, who he played under at Crystal Palace, as a major influence on him, particularly when it comes to team organization.

For Hopkins you get the feeling he likes coaching, particularly at a club such as Falcons, which has turned itself around off the park in the short time he has been at the club.

"It's been very enjoyable. I struggled a little during the pre-season with all the player stuff and getting the squad together, but after that was out of the way it's been great ... it's been a challenge but



Tough as nails: Falcons coach Jeff Hopkins during his five-year career with Reading.



"What can you say about 'Mem,' the admiration filtering down the phone line. "He has made a huge difference. From the day he walked in to the club he has been marvellous. When you tell the players you want to make the club as professional as possible and a guy like Mehmed walks in, it kind of gives them the belief that the club is serious."

Jeff Hopkins on Mehmed Durakovic (inset)

it has been made a lot easier by the professional attitude of the players and the club's administration," he said prior to leaving Melbourne for Brisbane Strikers.

Falcons defender Manny Gotis described Hopkins as one of the toughest defenders he had ever seen. "Absolutely rock hard" he said.

"Obviously it's been frustrating not being fit," said Hopkins of his persistent injury problems, "but perhaps that has been a Godsend because it has given me time to really concentrate on coaching."

This will probably be his last season as a player. At 35 he is finding it harder and harder with his right knee troubles.

Off the park he is a reserved and quietly spoken man, and Hopkins' coaching style is a similar style, but he will do the bollocking when need be.

"Perhaps I am not the right person to ask about my style. Let me say this, I am very passionate about my football, things have to be done properly so if things aren't being done then I will be saying in no uncertain terms what should be done."

"Having said that, if you go ranting and raving all the time it tends to go over people's heads and loses its effect."

Mehmed Durakovic is a name that Hopkins holds very highly. The Socceroo's arrival at Mobil Park has been a huge lift to a side big on work-rate but

short on experience and big time football savvy.

"What can you say about 'Mem,' the admiration filtering down the phone line. "He has made a huge difference. From the day he walked in to the club he has been marvellous.

"When you tell the players you want to make the club as professional as possible and a guy like Mehmed walks in, it kind of gives them the belief that the club is serious."

"He travels a couple of hours a day to get here. He stays after training, he shows his face around the place, and he doesn't just train and leave."

"So with Mem it's been on and off the park that we have felt the benefits. On the park he's been outstanding. He's a real steady and calming influence when we are under pressure."

Hopkins and Durakovic were teammates in Asia, playing for Malaysia's Selangor. They did the treble there, with Durakovic as skipper. "We still look back on those times as being good. Our families were there with us and they both got along as well," recalled the Falcons coach fondly.

With the current squad it is not likely to be added to, yet the problem is still finding a 15-20-goal-a-season striker. The young strikers picked up from the Victorian Premier League are still finding their feet (Nilo, Kakos and Mandic).

"The good thing is we are creating chances," added Hopkins. "And at the back we are keeping the box clear for Jevdjetic in goal."

Hopkins remains confident that the club will be there next year, with the



Falcons' Adrian Savage. Under Hopkins the young player has blossomed in the first team.

THE JEFF HOPKINS STORY:

Started at Fulham in 1980, staying for eight years. Then sold to Crystal Palace for 250,000 pounds in 88/89. Stayed four years, then to Bristol Rovers (on loan for four months) before moving to Reading for five years, a year at Selangor in Malaysia before arriving at Falcons last season.

INTERNATIONALS:

16 caps for Wales.

HIGHLIGHT:

"Playing against Brazil when I was just 19. I marked Adair. It ended a draw and it was a huge boost to my career."

rationalized NSL entry requirements currently being worked out.

"The feeling is a buoyant one at the club. The club is being run very professionally and I think that rubs off on the players.

"You can be as professional as you like on the park, but if the board is not doing its job off the park, then it's a problem. Fortunately that's not the case here."

"No-one here is thinking NSL Second Division. We are thinking about finishing as high as possible, and that's all."

The 1-0 away win at the leaders Brisbane on Saturday further proof that the experience of Hopkins, in concert with the inspirational Durakovic, is a wonderful and effective combination.

It augers well for the club's future.



A chance to prove himself in the big league. New Gippsland striker Peter Kakos.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE: BREAKERS' SHANE PRYCE

After a three-match winning run the Newcastle skipper spoke to Aidan Ormond

It was the day after their 1-0 win away over Parramatta Power and Breakers captain Shane Pryce was relaxing with his mates down the betting shop in the heart of Newcastle.

I wondered what odds he would get for Newcastle achieving their Holy Grail of a top six position this year? Right now, on the back of three excellent wins (away to Canberra and Power, home to Strikers) and sitting comfortably on the cusp of the six, probably shortish odds, especially if NSL history is anything to go on (see Greg Blake on page three.)

The hard fought win over Power was something Pryce was keen to expand on: "I suppose playing an away game against a quality side with high-profile players like them it was going to be difficult for us."

"But the longer we held on the more confident I was, we defended well and we got the three points thanks to John Buonavoglia's goal. They couldn't break us down and obviously the onus was on them to attack."

"There is a quiet confidence with us now. There is no cockiness, like some other clubs, which can make you your worst enemy. Every game is a possibility of a win."

"And the fans who travel mean a lot to us. They are loyal ones who support you through the hard times. We like to acknowledge them as we did on Friday night at Parra Stadium," said Pryce.

A good number of the 'Rowdies' (Breakers' hard-core support) made the trip to Sydney, as they do for most away games.

Meanwhile on the park, the last few weeks have seen a slight change to Newcastle's defensive formation, with Glenn Moore moving to a sweeping role with Pryce, in the last two games, playing as a right back, a shift from the previous flat back four.

"It's not a bad relationship I have with Lee Sterrey. If I had a bad attitude about moving position it would upset the side. He asked me about the switch and I said fine. Anything for the team."

"Glenn Moore has brought a new dimension to our side," Pryce noted. "He can handle himself and he is good all-round talent. I think it (the defensive change) has made us a little more compact and look at the results since Glenn Moore has been playing? It's obviously working."

Another addition to the side has been Andy Harper. The articulate journeyman has made a superb contribution in tandem with the talented John Buonavoglia in the strike line. As Lee Sterrey said earlier this year, "last year we had the strikeforce of Buonavoglia and Buonavoglia. This year we have another option." Pryce agrees.

"He's up there with one of the buys of the season: powerful, experienced, strong in the air and solid while Johnny Buonavoglia is pacy and nippy. They complement each other well; it's a good combination. Their understanding is getting better all the time."

The winning goal for Breakers against Brisbane Strikers two weeks ago was a perfect example of this understanding. A powerful and mazy 30-yard run by Harper finished off with a slide rule through ball to Buonavoglia, who shimmied then rounded the keeper and slotted home one of the goals of the season.

"We'll just have to keep putting Harps on the scales to check if he's not eating too much pizza from John's restaurant in Sydney!" quipped Pryce.

"You got to give credit to John for working so hard. He's a great professional," the Breakers skipper added.

Buonavoglia runs a pizzeria in Sydney called Buonavoglia's on Ramsay

"I knew myself I wasn't doing enough. You have to look in the mirror sometimes and be honest and ask yourself 'am I doing enough?'

Shane Pryce on Breakers' recent three-game losing streak

while training full-time with Newcastle. The little guy's schedule is obviously a very busy and taxing one, which makes his footballing success all that more meritorious.

Yet it has been a patchy season for the Northern NSW flagship club. October saw them unbeaten but a poor run in November had them losers on three occasions.

Drifting off the pace looked possible, yet Lee Sterrey's men have dug deep and with these last three wins under their belts they can look forward to this week's game against Glory with some confidence.

"We had that bad run then we won three. The key is consistency in this league. We just went back to our old qualities of 11 men playing and scrapping for everything," explained Pryce.

"I just think maybe there might have been a lack of hunger during that three game losing run. It's been stated before we don't have those game winners like other clubs have, so we need everyone making a contribution."

"In those losing games we only had three or four really contributing ... we really have to have eleven men doing the hard yards," he said adamantly.

And Pryce is not afraid to be brutally honest about himself. "I knew myself I wasn't doing enough. You have to look in the mirror sometimes and be honest and ask yourself 'am I doing enough?'

"I think the key is just going back to doing the easy stuff like winning the headers and making your passes, then the hard stuff should come after that."

Talented youngster Greg Owens is soon to return after injury, and like any successful side, Pryce feels depth is the key. "We have some guys like Greg coming back and younger guys like Tanchevski, Tomich, Mansley and Ferguson putting pressure on, and it just adds to depth ... when you have competition it makes you try harder because you know the

other bloke wants your spot.

"Some of the bigger clubs may have that attitude that 'I am who I am so I don't need to prove it so much'. At Newcastle it's different, plus no-one expects us to be in the semis."

Pryce is almost entirely devoted to playing football now. In previous years he too was juggling working full-time (at a security company) with his first love, soccer. "My number one priority is football now. There is more training and there is more PR work to be done for the club. It's part and parcel of the game."

If the Breakers do make the six this year, it will come through the strengths of attitude, commitment and not looking further than the next game.

"I just think we have to draw on our qualities of playing smart away and win just about all the home games," said Pryce on what they have to do to make the finals from here.

"Our philosophy is a week by week commitment. After the Power game the last thing I said when we left the sheds was 'let's now start thinking about Perth'."

The previous week's win over the then unbeaten Strikers was shrouded in controversy regarding the return of former coach John Kosmina. Pryce was eager to dismiss this from the public consciousness. "For me all I wanted to have from that game was three points. That's all, nothing else. All that drama and hype was for the fans and people with gripes. For us to get involved is not professional and ridiculous."

His relationship with 'Kossie' remains good; he was given a chance to play NSL and was later named his captain. "For him to have the belief in me was great."

In the wider context of the league the



Shane Pryce leading his men out to battle at North Sydney. They won that game too.

Breakers play in, long-term rationalization of the NSL is something the 25-year-old is firmly for.

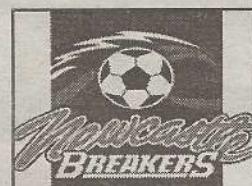
"Yeah it's good, no doubt. I think the standard is okay right now but something like this will give it more TV airtime."

"There should be quality games week-in-week-out, which should attract top class overseas players and give the younger kids a league good enough to keep them here longer."

But that's all in the future. As you read this there is only one thing on the mind of Shane Pryce and the Breakers. This Friday night at Breakers stadium against the league's glamour club Perth Glory.

Last season two stunning strikes by a then unknown Greg Owens gave the home side a deserved win. It was one of the games of the season.

There is also the return of prodigal son Troy Halpin. Another big crowd is expected for one of the marquee matchups of the round.



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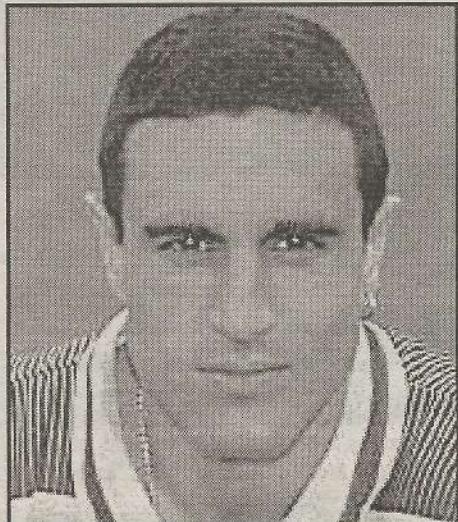
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AUSSIES on the world stage

A round-up of how our Aussies players fared abroad in this last week ...

Aussie involvement in the European Cups last week was limited to the UEFA Cup. Australian 'keeper Mark Bonsich's injury kept him out of the Manchester United side that returned to form with a 3-0 home victory over Spanish side Valencia in the Champions Cup.

In the UEFA Cup the second leg of the third round was played last week with two teams featuring Aussies seeking to progress to the last sixteen.



Reading's former Sydney Olympic defender Andy Bernal. He played 90 mins against Plymouth.

In Dortmund, visitors Rangers arrived with a convincing 2-0 win in the first leg and were favourites to advance to the next round. The Scottish champions, with Aussies Craig Moore and Tony Vidmar in the squad, did it tough but were hanging on to an overall lead until the last minute. Dortmund had a 1-0 lead from early on in the game and just as Rangers looked like they were hanging on, up popped Fredi Bobic to hit home Dortmund's second and overall equalising goal.

Moore played the full game and was booked in the 57th minute while Vidmar was involved in the exciting latter part of the game after he came on in the 89th minute.

In the other UEFA game featuring an Aussie, Leeds United had a different task to Rangers. They lost the first leg to Spartak Moscow but were fortunate enough to have scored the all-important away goal in the 2-1 loss.

Requiring only the solitary goal to move into the next round the youngsters of Leeds left it to the last minute as has been their custom in their last few games.

Captain Lucas Radebe's header from a corner ensured a 1-0 victory for the home team although on the quality of their display it should have been a few more goals to the youngsters.

Harry Kewell was certainly an instrumental part of the Leeds performance as he played the full game and created a number of chances for his team-mates.

In the weekend Scottish Premier League games both Rangers and Celtic had victories with the latter recording a handsome 6-0 win while Rangers squeezed home by the score of 1-0 over

Kilmarnock.

In the slaughter of Aberdeen, Mark Viduka scored another goal with a 75th minute tap in after a goal-keeping error.

In the Rangers win, Moore was suspended and Vidmar stepped in his compatriot's central defence role and played a full game.

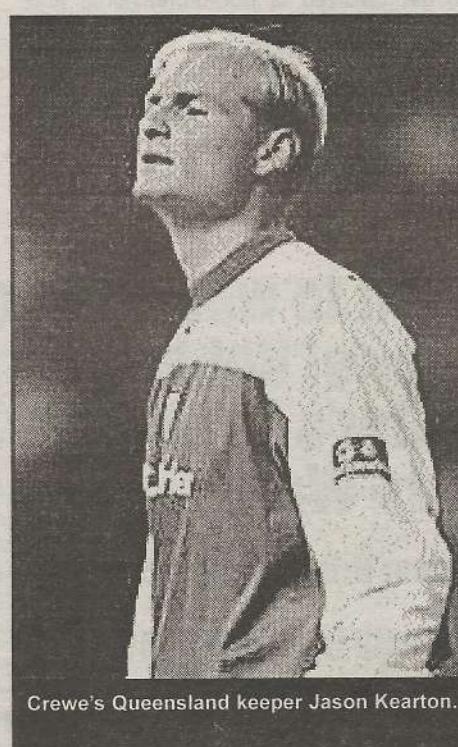
In England, the FA Cup reached the third round stage where Premier League teams entered the fray and a number of the games involved Aussies.

In the Friday games the resurgence of Crystal Palace stalled as they went down away to Cambridge by two goal to nil. Both Aussies, Craig Foster and Nick Rizzo, started the game with the former playing the full ninety minutes while Rizzo was replaced in the 64th minute. He also received a yellow card.

Crewe Alexander faced Premier League team Bradford with Jason Kearton playing a full game but were beaten at home 2-1 with a late goal to Dean Saunders.

Andrew Bernal was part of the Reading team that will replay its game away to Plymouth after a 1-1 draw at home. Bernal played a full game for the struggling second division team.

First Division Portsmouth were up against the high flying Premier League team Sunderland and went a goal down early and were up against it after Aussie Mike Panopoulos was sent off in the 40th minute. They did well to hang on but succumbed to that early goal.



Another Premier League versus First Division encounter was the game between Watford and Birmingham with the lower division team emerging 0-1 victors this time. Richard Johnson played a full game for Watford while Stan Lazaridis is still on the injured list for Birmingham.

In the West Bromwich Albion-Blackburn 2-2 draw none of the three Aussies that were part of the two squads took any part in the game. For the home team both Andrew McDermott and Jason Van Blerk stayed on the bench for the entire game as did goalkeeper John Filan for Blackburn.

Regular starter Kevin Muscat and Steve Corica were in the Wolverhampton starting lineup that won 1-0 away to



Socceroo Craig Foster showing the way at Palace. He played a full game in the 2-2 draw with Ipswich.

Wigan with a late goal. Muscat played the whole game while Corica, who was involved in a number of goal scoring opportunities, was replaced in the 72nd minute.

One of the upsets of the third round was the defeat of Premier League team Middlesbrough who were beaten by lower division team Wrexham by two goals to one. In the Middlesbrough goal Mark Schwarzer was at his usual efficient self as he played the full game.

Manchester City had a relatively easy 4-1 home win over Chester but both Aussies Danny Tiatto and Daniel Allsopp remained on the bench.

Harry Kewell played a full game as Leeds advanced to the next round after a 2-0 win over Port Vale.

Shaun Murphy was one of the central defenders as Sheffield United struggled to a 1-1 home draw with Rushden and Diamonds.

In midweek a number of Nationwide Division One games were played with all games featuring an Aussie Abroad.

In Blackburn's 3-0 home win over Bolton, John Filan's misery continued as he remained on the bench for the whole game.

Crewe Alexander's recent good fortune continued as they beat West Brom 2-0 to move themselves away from the bottom of the ladder - Kearton was again in goals for Crewe while Van Blerk was replaced in the 78th minute and McDermott remained on the bench for West Brom.

Craig Foster played the full game and Nick Rizzo came on in the 81st minute as Crystal Palace were held to a 2-2 draw at home to Ipswich.

In the last game, previous leaders Manchester City had another loss, this time 2-0 at home against Stockport. Aussie Danny Tiatto didn't see any action as he warmed the bench for the duration of the game.

In the Nationwide Division Two mid-week games, Millwall had a 2-1 win away to Wycombe to move up the ladder sitting in a position ready to pounce on the promotion candidates. Both Lucas Neill and Tim Cahill played full games and both Aussies received yellow cards.

In the Bundesliga weekend games 1860 Munchen had its momentum halted somewhat when it drew 3-3 at home to Schalke 04. Ned Zelic played a full game for the home team but not in the sweeper position where he was last week. With the return of Dutchman Gerard Vanenburg to the sweeper role Zelic was moved to a midfield position.

Similarly, with the return of star strikers Max and Winkler, Aussie Paul Agostino stayed seated on the bench for the whole game.

In the other Bundesliga games David Zdrilic came on in the 84th minute as SSV Ulm won 3-1 at home against Kaiserslautern - a win that moves Ulm away from the bottom of the table - two points clear of bottom teams Eintracht Frankfurt and Arminia Bielefeld.

In the big clash of the day Hamburg drew 2-2 away to Bayer Leverkusen but Hamburg's Aussie, Joe Simunic, did not take part in any action on the day.



Millwall's Tim Cahill (top) played a full game against Wycombe.

In the Italian Serie B Marco Bresciano played a full game as his team Empoli drew 0-0 at home to Atalanta. The home team, relegated from Serie A last year, is slipping dangerously close to the relegation zone in Serie B, sitting in seventh last position but only four points in front of third last Savoia.

In the Serie A Paul Okon warmed the bench for the whole game as Fiorentina went down 2-0 away to leaders Lazio.

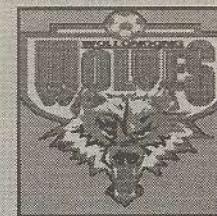
In Spain Kostas Salapaidis started the game for his team Compostela in their 1-1 home draw with Villarreal but was substituted at the start of the second half.

In Holland Zeljko Kalac was in goals for the whole game as Roda JC went down 2-3 at home to De Graafschap.

There was no action in the Croatian First Division - where we have a number of players - due to the death of the Croatian President, Franjo Tudjman.

DOUG SYMES:

My master plan for south coast soccer



The spring of 1963 heralded a new era in Australian football when an Australian club record crowd of 30,150 witnessed a magnificent 4-0 victory for South Coast United over the favourites Apia Leichhardt at the Sydney Sports Ground.

Wollongong developed players like Max Tolson, Dennis Paterson, Peter Beattie and Casey de Bruin, providing the proof that Australia could produce its own stars, rather than relying on imported players.

During the 1970s the south coast thrilled to the greatness of Adrian Alston and Peter Wilson when large crowds would pack Woonona Oval and congregate at Woonona Sports Club after the game to worship their stars.

Despite a minor premiership in 1988, and a top six place in the 1997/98 N.S.L., the people of Wollongong have had little to celebrate and interest in the N.S.L. on the south coast has waned considerably.

However, a new era is hopefully about to emerge under the leadership of chairman and Credit Suisse First Boston stockbroker Doug Symes.

Symes, a self-confessed fanatic and convert to the game, is relishing the challenge of taking the Wollongong Wolves into the 21st century and resurrecting the strong tradition of football on the South Coast.

In this interview with Roger Sleeman, Symes outlines his master plan to restore football as a way of life on the south coast, and examines his views on the state of the Australian game.

ROGER SLEEMAN Can you explain the background to your appointment as chairman of the Wolves?

DOUG SYMES Ironically, I was brought up on a rugby diet having attended Scots College during my formative years, in those days there was no football played in the G.P.S. system. It was only when my sons started playing for the Balgownie Jun-

ior club that the game caught my attention, and I confess it captivated me on a skill level and also for its international scope which no other sport could offer.

With the privatisation of the Wolves, I saw an opportunity to be involved with the game at the highest level in Australia and after discussions with Brian Hastings, the former chairman, I decided to accept the position of chairman of the new board.

R.S. As a successful businessman, what were your first impressions of the marketing and administration of Australian football?

D.S. With the advent of privatisation, it appears that progress is being made. For too long the game has been run on an ad hoc basis, relying on the good intentions of volunteers but with little regard placed on professional management.

For example at Wollongong, two of the key positions on the board of nine are the Director of Marketing and Director of Finance. In the financial areas, strict controls are in place in the budgetary and cash flow responsibilities.

Obviously, if you don't manage these areas, however good the product, you won't stay in business and your supporters won't have a team to follow.

R.S. What is your club doing to increase crowds at home matches?

D.S. Like many other Australian sports it seems that in football it's much easier to draw crowds when you have a winning team.

Yet, it's a total package we should be looking to provide. Sure, it's great if your team is competitive and can provide entertainment on the pitch but the



South Coast soccer's flagship NSL side Wollongong Wolves (missing is Stuart Young)

spectators must leave the game with a total experience which will encourage them to come to the next match.

As part of Soccer Australia's 2001 Plan, there's a strong emphasis on seating, floodlighting, catering, match programs and merchandising, all of which the club is currently addressing.

At Wollongong we also are trying to appeal to family participation at our home matches and this season's Rooball competition for U10s has been a great crowd puller.

R.S. What has been the reaction of the local associations to your initiatives?

D.S. There are many positives emanating from our marketing program which is designed to reduce the gap between the local clubs and the professional club.

There are 60,000 players competing on the South Coast so it's a big challenge and in terms of the local Premier League every attempt is being made to polarise it into our club.

Matt Horsley continues his vital work in the schools and we've also assigned two or three players to every local club so every Saturday morning during winter, the Wolves van travels round the different junior grounds to watch the local youth.

At our school visits we're also promoting our sponsor Kidz Net heavily by giving company T shirts and CD ROMs to the students which links the children to the sponsor and identifies the sponsor with the club.

R.S. Due to the drain on playing talent, it is becoming much harder for clubs to maintain playing standards on the park. What is Wollongong doing to arrest the problem?

D.S. Apart from Kosta Salapasis, we've been fortunate in keeping our top players but we do recognise the pressure on young players to heed the temptations of earning big financial rewards overseas or move from Wollongong to the A.I.S. or the big-paying N.S.L. clubs.

One measure we've employed this season is the introduction of the Colts team to play in the Youth League which will provide encouragement for local talent to stay in Wollongong and progress through the ranks to first team football.

In the end if we can keep our

house in order by providing financial security for the club, players will benefit and in some way the player drain will be reduced.

R.S. How seriously does the media take our sport?

D.S. The upper echelons are thinking more seriously about it because you've only to look at Murdoch's attempt to buy Manchester United, and you could say if he saw the opportunity in Australia to become more involved he would.

However, on the downside the Channel 7 deal was only made because the station was afraid it would lose the A.F.L. telecast rights and it needed a stop gap.

The station is only interested in national team matches so what does this really do for the N.S.L.?

The ten year deal with 7 should've been negotiated as a total package but I suspect you'd have to ask David Hill why that never eventuated.

In Wollongong we have a very good relationship with the print media and WIN 4. Recently, we appointed Peter Sharpe, the Deputy Editor of the Illawarra Mercury, to the board so you could say we're making friends with the media.

R.S. What is your opinion of the people at the higher levels of the game?

D.S. Let's say there are people like Nick Tana and Nick Politis whose success speaks for itself but there are some people in the game I don't agree with. For example, Australia will receive five million dollars from South Melbourne's participation in the World Club Championship.

Three million will go to South Melbourne and the remaining amount to Soccer Australia. Surely, this two million dollars could be divided between the other clubs for marketing purposes because lack of marketing dollars is really one of the major problem areas in the game.

I don't believe we're looking after our sponsors either, when you consider at home matches we're allocated forty free tickets for the visiting team.

It would be more logical to allocate these tickets to existing and potential sponsors.

So when you ask me what I think of the management in the game, the best answer is; decisions are being made without adequate discussion and input from many of the stakeholders.

READERS' FORUM

Every time I read of people within the Australian soccer community complaining about the 'ethnic' clubs holding football back in this country I can't help feeling that we are just doing the bidding of the AFL and other 'anti-football' interests.

Firstly, I must state that I agree totally with the campaign to banish nationalism from the terraces, but to carry that through and suggest we have to get rid of 'ethnically based' clubs is tantamount to cutting the game of at the root.

All sport in Australia is ethnically based. If you wish to see an ethnically defined sporting event I suggest a trip to the SCG to see the Sydney Swans play.

This is anglo-saxon Australia in person - from the four and twenty pies, to the jaunty club theme song, to the insults yelled at the visiting team.

No-one seems to be the least bit concerned about this fact (same for cricket) so why are we so angst ridden about the fact that football in Australia represents the diverse cultural backgrounds of the citizens of this country.

I am myself an Anglo-Australian and committed Sydney Olympic fan. My family

and I enjoy the fact that Olympic is a Greek based club, the crowd culture is fantastic, the atmosphere is welcoming and above all the football is taken very seriously by everyone. What is the problem here?

No-one suggests that Norton St should be shut down because it has too many Italian cafes, or that the proliferation of Chinese restaurants in the Haymarket is holding back Australian cuisine. Can't we just get over this?

Teams such as Northern Spirit have obviously lifted the bar as far as promotion and marketing in the league is concerned and it is not just the other teams like Olympic and Marconi who have to respond to this but Soccer Australia.

Basketball, rugby, league and the AFL have been investing their money promoting their sports as a whole for the last decade.

I might have missed it but I don't recall seeing any advertising outside of the soccer media promoting the NSL at all let alone in an effective fashion.

Ross Turnbull
Marrickville



And yes that is Bernd Stange in the Santa beard at the back.
For any kiddies reading, the real Santa is coming soon.

Round twelve preview

By Ben Cubby

Round 12's top-of-the-table clash between Sydney Olympic and Brisbane Strikers at Belmore on Sunday promises to be a real cracker. The Strikers plummeted to fourth spot after their shock home loss to Gippsland, and must now face an Olympic side who rediscovered their attacking verve against Canberra last weekend.

Olympic may lose Pablo Cardozo to Spanish football in the near future, but with Emerton, Carle and Mendez coming into form they will be a difficult side to contain at home. Kosmina's boys don't mind going forward either and this duel should provide plenty of action for the fans.

Newcastle's fighting qualities will be severely tested by visitors Perth Glory on Friday night, but the Breakers are on a roll and should never be written off in front of their loyal supporters.

Friday's other fixtures see Spirit take on the Force in a supernatural encounter at North Sydney, while, across the Tasman, the Kingz host a medieval battle with the Knights. Recent results favour the home sides in both contests.

On Saturday, Marconi must put last week's capitulation to Auckland behind them as they jour-

ney south to face the tricky Gippsland outfit.

The Falcons are a tough nut to crack at home, especially with 'keeper Bojo Jevdjovic on song, and they could snatch some valuable points here.

In Sunday's other games, pride will be on the line as Sydney United host Parramatta, Canberra enter the Wolves' lair and Carlton make the short trip across the Yarra to South Melbourne.

The Sydney derby gives United another chance to settle their scores with Parramatta on the pitch, instead of in the courtroom. Both teams are in patchy form of late, and the side which shows greater commitment is likely to win through.

Wollongong's free-flowing style should bring them victory against the Cosmos. Another loss for Canberra would see them back in familiar territory near the foot of the ladder, but it is hard to see Tom Sermanni's men

getting a result in the steel city.

South Melbourne are without suspended 'keeper Milan Udvaracz for the Carlton derby, and able deputy Chris Jones will step into the breach.

South are notoriously hard to beat at Lakeside, but with John Markovski firing for Carlton, anything is possible.

Click go the turnstiles!



NSL TOP SCORERS:

PAUL FOSTER

(Strikers) 9 goals

ALEX MOREIRA (right)

(Carlton) 9 goals

CON BOUTSIANIS (PG) 6

JOHN BOUNAVOGLIA (NB) 6

MICHAEL CURCIJA (SM) 6

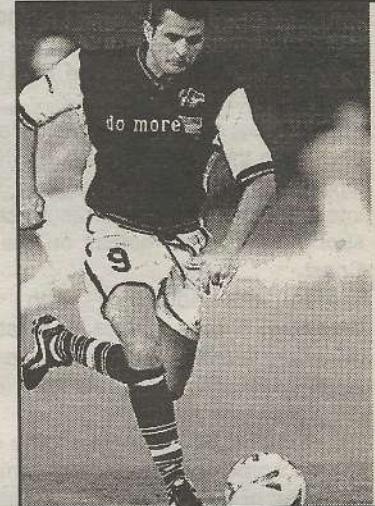
JOEL GRIFFITHS (PP) 6

Cumulative attendances

after round eleven:

99/00: 479,767

98/99: 462,219.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

"Northern Spirit has no intention of merging with Sydney Olympic"

Spirit Chairman Remo Nogarotto knocks that idea promptly on the head.

"We were not concentrated enough to take our chances"

Bernd Stange after the Sydney United game. That is the watered down version of what he said.

"We have always been regarded as the Volkswagens of the NSL but I think we have graduated to being Mitsubishi Magnas"

Breakers coach Lee Sterrey. Is this man the most quotable in the NSL or what?

"I dreamt about the Matildas last night."

One (unnamed) Inside Soccer contributor. And no, you can't have the office copy of the calendar.

"My dream christmas present would be that my folks go away for a month and leave me the keys to the house"

Power's young gun Matt Thompson wishing to be Home Alone.

"It's a calendar not a crime."

Matilda Sunni Hughes on 'the calendar'.

"Outplayed, out-maneuvred, out-disciplined and outfought"

Eddie Kmcevic's woolly summary after the Kingz game at Marconi Stadium.

"Bougainvillea scored for Newcastle v Power last Friday."

Adelaide radio last Friday night. Does this mean John Buonavoglia has blossomed into a fine player? (Thanks Andrew Howe for that one).

	(Overall)										(Home)					(Away)				
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
Sydney Olympic	11	7	2	2	19	9	23	10	2	2	1	8	6	5	0	1	11	3		
Carlton	11	6	3	2	24	12	21	12	4	1	1	14	7	2	2	1	10	5		
Perth Glory	11	6	3	2	24	13	21	11	3	2	1	17	9	3	1	1	7	4		
Brisbane Strikers	11	6	3	2	18	10	21	8	3	2	1	13	7	3	1	1	5	3		
Wollongong Wolves	11	5	3	3	20	17	18	3	3	0	2	8	7	2	3	1	12	10		
Marconi Stallions	11	5	2	4	14	17	17	-3	3	0	2	4	7	2	2	2	10	10		
Newcastle Breakers	11	4	4	3	15	15	16	0	1	3	1	8	8	3	1	2	7	7		
Football Kingz	11	4	3	4	19	20	15	-1	1	2	2	7	11	3	1	2	12	9		
South Melbourne	11	4	2	5	18	18	14	0	4	1	0	14	4	0	1	5	4	14		
Gippsland Falcons	11	3	4	4	8	11	13	-3	2	1	2	4	3	1	3	2	4	8		
Northern Spirit	11	4	1	6	9	15	13	-6	2	0	2	4	5	2	1	4	5	10		
Parramatta Power	11	3	3	5	17	19	12	-2	2	3	2	10	9	1	0	3	7	10		
Melbourne Knights	11	4	0	7	11	20	12	-9	3	0	3	6	6	1	0	4	5	14		
Canberra Cosmos	11	3	2	6	15	19	11	-4	2	1	4	9	8	1	1	2	6	11		
Sydney United	11	2	3	6	7	15	9	-8	2	1	3	4	6	0	2	3	3	9		
Adelaide Force	11	1	4	6	8	16	7	-8	1	2	2	6	7	0	2	4	2	9		

Produced with the assistance of McRopod Concept Sports Systems - www.planet.net.au/~mcrpod. NSL after Round 11

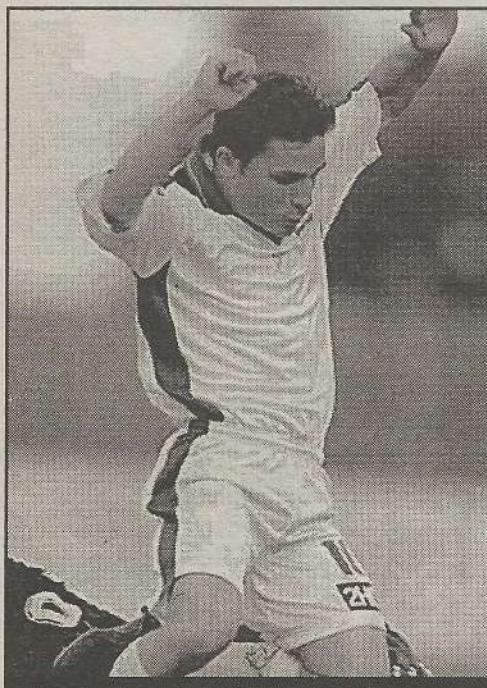
Mitch fumes as Breakers revival Powers on



PARRAMATTA POWER 0 NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1

Buonavoglia 62

Friday night at Parramatta Stadium, Sydney. Crowd: 4,004



Breakers' scorer on Friday night, the pocket rocket John Buonavoglia.

By John Vratic

"A few players shouldn't pick up their pay cheques this week," was one of the first comments that a bitterly disappointed Parramatta coach David Mitchell made to the media after Power put on another below par performance in front of their dwindling home fans.

The 1-0 loss to an efficient Newcastle team seems to be the last straw for Mitchell who forecasted a number of changes for the next game.

Lee Sterrey the winning coach, on the other hand, had a lot to smile about as the win put his team just out of the top six and well primed for a strong challenge to those sitting in those positions as the season nears the second half.

This win was the third in a row for the Breakers and it has been a long time since the team from northern NSW has achieved such a feat.

The Breakers' position near the top of the ladder inspired Sterrey to suggest that his team of Volkswagens are about to graduate to being Mitsubishi Magnas.

Sterrey made a tactical change to his winning side of last week with the introduction of the pacy Travis Dodd, in place of Vasko Trpcevski, to provide extra pace out wide for his tactical counter attacking plan.

Mitchell was forced into two changes - last week's dismissal of Jacob Burns forcing him to sit out the match while the in-form Joel Griffiths' shoulder injury of two weeks ago flared up in the loss to South Melbourne and he failed a late fitness test.

Into the side came Steve Eagleton playing in the left wing-back role in place of John Gibson who moved into the midfield for Burns.

The other change was the return of Steve Berry, for Griffiths, into the midfield giving the team a more natural three man midfield unlike last week when striker John Angelucci played behind the two strikers, Griffiths and Mile Sterjovski.

Notably sitting on the bench for the first time since his arrival at Power was Australian Joeys' captain Mark Byrnes

alongside another youngster Matt Thompson.

Mitchell's disappointment over the team's performance is shared by club management with the attendances during the season and in particular last Friday night.

A meagre crowd of a touch over 4,000, whilst close to the NSL average (excluding Glory and Spirit), is well below early expectations and, alarmingly, a two thousand decrease on the previous home game.

Power CEO, Brad Levy, whilst concerned with the spectator numbers remains positive and plans are afoot to initiate marketing and promotional activities in an effort to entice the, to now, reluctant football fans to venture to the Powerhouse.

Power had the first opportunity of the half when Mile Sterjovski had a shot on goal deflected for a corner in the seventh minute - the resultant corner kick was punched away by Bob Catlin but only as far as Walter Ardene who headed it back towards John Angelucci.

The former Blacktown Demons striker, with his back towards the goal, made a good fist of an overhead kick but it was also cleared for a corner.

In the 28th minute a failed attempt on goal by Eagleton provided Power with a fortunate corner from which Angelucci was given time and space but his header went straight to the 'keeper.

Both defences were on top and although the two teams did at times put together attacking moves, most of them were nullified by good defensive work or an inability by the teams to provide the finishing touches with a penetrative last pass.

An exception occurred in the 33rd minute when a mis-directed pass from Angelucci was happily collected by Harper - the veteran took the ball almost to the box where he laid it off to Andy Roberts. A well-struck left foot shot by the midfielder was saved by Catlin while Blagojevic was allowed a header in the box from a long throw but it sailed just over the crossbar.

Sterrey was obviously delighted with the win and thought that his team played well collectively but a little "disappointed

defence was picked up by Bennett who had another shot on goal - this time he was more accurate but his curling shot hit the cross bar with Catlin beaten.

Newcastle's counter attacking game came to the fore after the initial Power onslaught and Harper went close in the 58th minute.

Picking up a loose ball just inside the Power half he defied all attempts to run him down as he strode towards the goal. It was only just inside the box, as he was about to shoot, that Eagleton came to Power's rescue.

He was able to rob Harper of the ball and although a melee ensued the Power defence was able to clear the danger.

Four minutes later Buonavoglia achieved the breakthrough. A pass from the right by Dodd was flicked on by Harper behind the Power defence and the always alert Breaker goal sneak used his super pace to get to the ball first and neatly slip it past Crews.

In the 66th minute Buonavoglia came close again when Dodd eluded the Power defenders on the right and was able to pull the ball back from the by-line to the charging striker on the near post. The cross was just behind Buonavoglia and he was unable to get a shot on goal.

With a one goal lead the Breakers sat back to absorb the Power attacks and this they did with relative ease.

Power lacked the inspiration to pry open the tight Breakers defence and there was very few players actually looking for the ball.

Young substitute Matt Thompson seemed to be only one calling for the ball as his more senior team mates went into hiding as the final whistle drew nearer.

Power did have two half chances late in the game - a Berry header was well saved by Catlin while Blagojevic was allowed a header in the box from a long throw but it sailed just over the crossbar.

"The mid-field was non-existent, Matt Thompson, a 17-year-old, was the only one looking for the ball," was one of Mitchell's press conference laments.

MATCH STATS
PARRAMATTA POWER:
Crews, Blagojevic, Vrkic (Byrnes 79), Bennett (Townsend 69), Eagleton, Elrich, Ardene (Thompson 61), Gibson, Berry, Sterjovski, Angelucci.

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS: Catlin, Moore, McManus, Sprod, Pryce, Wieczorek, Dodd (Smith 79), Wilson (Trpcevski 85), Roberts, Harper (Tancheski 73), Buonavoglia.

Yellows:
Power: Townsend 71.
Breakers: Wilson 23, Pryce 29.

Best Players
3. BLAGOJEVIC (POWER)
2. Moore (Breakers)
1. Harper (Breakers)

Referee: Con Diomis

with how we handled the ball in possession."

He was pleased with the display of his defence particularly Glen Moore.

"Moore has made a big difference since he's come in, he talks in defence and can play the ball on the ground.

"He will be released more as we attack more (especially at home)."

As noted, Mitchell was disillusioned with the performance of some of his players and commented that only Blagojevic and Crews could feel satisfied with their display.

"The mid-field was non-existent, Matt Thompson, a 17-year-old, was the only one looking for the ball," was one of Mitchell's press conference laments.

In a variation on match entertainment Power had the ZOOO international band playing, throughout the match - a variation that did not receive too many plaudits from the crowd around the press box.

MELBOURNE SPORTS BOOKS

New Soccer Books and Videos

Ronaldo	\$45
Teddy Sheringham: my autobiography	\$50
Rothmans F/ball Yearbook 99/2000	\$60
Playfair Football Annual	\$16
News of the World Annual 99/2000	\$20
Alex Ferguson: My Life	\$50
Robbie Slater: The Hard Way	\$25
Australian NSL History	\$10
Man Utd: Pride of all Europe	\$30
Vinnie Jones	\$20
Kevin Keegan: new book	\$17
Brimson Bros: Hooligan books	\$20 each
Perth Glory Yearbook 1999	\$14
Ruud Gullit: my autobiography	\$22
Eric Cantona: my story	\$20
Man Utd: Red Voices	\$50
FIFA: How they stole the game	\$50
Hillsborough Disaster: The Truth	\$28
Many Soccer coaching books/videos	\$10-50
Harry Redknapp: my autobiography	\$50
Michael Owen: two new books	\$25/50
Studs Up Fanzine Sep 99	\$3
David Beckham: My Story	\$35
Frank Farina: My World Is Round	\$25
Tony Adams: Addicted	\$20s/back \$50h/back
George Best: Bestie	\$20
Maradona: Hand of God	\$20
Gianfranco Zola	\$50
Dennis Law: new book	\$50
Les Ferdinand	\$40

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Farcical 'red card' sums up the night



CARLTON 3

Moreira 9, Markovski 36, 42

SYDNEY UNITED 1

Younis 93

Friday night at Olympic Park, Melbourne. Crowd 2,793

MATCH STATS:

C A R L T O N :
 Anastasiadis,
 McPherson, Atkinson,
 Douglas, Marth,
 Terminello, Slater
 (Anthopoulos 46),
 Packer, Lapsansky, Markovski (Conroy
 66), Moreira (Deans 80)

S Y D N E Y U N I T E D :
 Hughes, Kupresak,
 Bosmar, Savocca, Jurilj,
 A.Moric (T.Maric),
 Pondeljak (Younis 80),
 Zec (Luff 73), Rastall,
 Genc, J.Moric

Yellows
 Carlton: Slater 39
 United: Genc 89

Best Players:
 3 - JOHN MARKOVSKI (CARL)
 2 - Sean Douglas (Carl)
 1 - David Terminello (Carl)

Referee: David Dwight

By Kevin Christopher

Shocking! That was how Carlton coach Stuart Munro initially summed up his team's performance against Sydney United on Friday night, despite the fact they cruised to a 3-1 victory.

Leading 3-0 at half-time, the home crowd sensed that perhaps a cricket score was on the cards, particularly as Carlton had failed to play anywhere near their peak in the opening forty-five minutes and

United goalkeeper Brett Hughes was in such dreadful touch.

But to their credit Sydney United refused to throw in the towel and the Blues were forced to settle for little more than the three points.

Shocking may also be the description attached to a farcical incident midway through the first half when referee David Dwight flashed the red card at Dave McPherson after team-mate David Terminello had returned to the field following a facial injury.

Confused? Perhaps it's best to let Munro take up the story.

"Terminello went off the pitch injured and he came on, he just got himself on the pitch and I said to the linesman 'He can't just go on the pitch, can he?' I mean, stupid me, opening my mouth... The linesman says 'No'. And the next thing the linesman runs away and starts flagging, and obviously telling him he's supposed to get booked for that, because he's on the pitch without permission.

"But the linesman didn't know who he was. He said it was number two (McPherson). I mean, he's picked the biggest guy on the pitch from the smallest guy on the pitch.

"So I've said to the referee, you know, the referee has shown the red card, and then he said 'Oh no, sorry, it should be a yellow'. And then he spoke to the linesman who said, no, it wasn't the big tall guy. And then he said, we don't know who it was so perhaps we'll just cancel it."

The incident seemed to sum up a match in which none of the participants really got to grips with their tasks.

One of the few positives for the night was the return from injury of English import Stuart Slater and although he was replaced at half-time by Con Anthopoulos, he did enough to suggest the league will be a far more entertaining place once he regains full fitness.

It took him just eight minutes to tee up a shooting chance for John Markovski, and when United goalkeeper Brett Hughes failed to hold the shot Moreira was on hand to tap-in his ninth goal of the season.

The Blues then overcame the shock of the officials' antics to press forward against the undermanned visitors, and almost went further ahead after twenty-five minutes when Mirko Jurilj played a Markovski header against his own post.

Hughes proved just as generous eleven minutes later when he scuffed an attempted clearance straight to Markovski on the edge of the penalty area.

The burly striker steadied with his first touch and then drove the ball straight back past Hughes and into the corner of the net.

The match was as good as over three minutes before the interval when Slater earned a free kick on the edge of the penalty area, and a simple ball from David Terminello found Markovski at the near post to convert his second of the evening.

Sydney United deserve some kudos for forcing Carlton back into their own half after the break, with Matthew Zec and Eddie Bosnar going close before Tom Pondeljak forced a fine close range save



Sydney United's Aytek Genc tries to push Carlton's Lubo Lapsansky off the ball during the at times farcical match at Olympic Park on Friday night.

from Dean Anastasiadis.

At the other end Alex Moreira, Mike Conroy and Andrew Packer all had chances to increase the lead but Hughes was never seriously threatened and it was left to United substitute Ray Younis to score the best goal of the game deep in injury time.

Latching on to a long ball from Tom Maric, he spotted Anastasiadis off his line and produced an excellent chip from twenty-five metres which had the 'keeper grasping at thin air.

It was just reward for the visitors who had seemed on the brink of self-destruction for long periods. Indeed, for a ten minute spell early in the second half it seemed that the visitors might even muster a comeback and coach David Ratcliffe was quick to seize on that after the match.

"The one positive thing I take out of it is that we did well when we were down. In the second half I thought we had the better of the chances but unfortunately we didn't get one right until the end.

Obviously we're struggling, but some of the lads, you know, are possibly not NSL material.

But they're the best I've got, and you've got to try and lift them and help them. A lot of them have just been thrown in at the deep end and some swim and some sink."

Ratcliffe took solace from the fact his team refused to wave the white flag after half-time.

"If we'd have rolled over it could have been seven or eight."

But as Stuart Munro correctly pointed out, they didn't deserve seven or eight.

"It was very quiet in the dressing rooms tonight (after the game) because the players themselves know we set our standards a lot higher.

"By getting the goals early Sydney United were there to be well beaten and if we'd played to seventy per cent of our game we would have beaten them well.

"We did enough to come through the game reasonably comfortably but it wasn't a good performance by us. I don't think any player can really put his hand on his heart and say it was a good performance. We must do a lot better than that next week against South Melbourne".

Indeed they will. Despite the relative success of Atkinson's move into the three-man backline, Craig Deans is almost certain to return for the big local derby. They should also be boosted by the availability of Archie Thompson and a fitter Stuart Slater.

All inclusions will be crucial. As Munro agreed, South Melbourne are a different class of opponent to what they have faced in the past two matches.



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Season of discontent: Force fans vent their anger

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 1

Pelosi 60

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2

Petrovski 1, Chipperfield 89

Friday night at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide. Crowd 3,764



MATCH STATS:

ADELAIDE FORCE:

Knezevic, Tobin, Mori, Vidmar, Cartwright, Brain (Talladira 60), Kemp, Costanzo, Hassell (Sabljak 45), Pelosi, Kim.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES:

Pogliacomi, Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski, Horsley, Reid, Surjan (Harlock 83), Young (Masi 84), Chipperfield, Petrovski, Huxley (Spencer 73).

Yellows:

Force: Kim, Vidmar.

Wolves: Cervinski, Stanton.

Best Players:

3 CERVINSKI (WOLLONGONG)
2 Costanzo (Force)
1 Chipperfield (Wollongong)

Referee: Craig Zetter

By Margaret Bowden
and Donald Campbell OAM

What a sight! Hindmarsh Stadium complete: all stands open, the pitch like a bowling green, another balmy evening. Magnificent. But where were the fans?

Lack of publicity about the first chance for the soccer public to savour Hindmarsh in all its splendour after almost two seasons of restrictions and mess, and to meet four of South Australia's contingent of heroic Joeys - Iain Fyfe, Aaron Goulding, Louis Brain and Matthew Milosevic - denied the Force a bumper crowd.

Or was it just that the local fans have given up on the Force? The departure of yet another overseas professional player (Derek Ferguson) after a very brief stay hints that all is not well with Adelaide Force - or I should say Adelaide City Force.

Jeering, and chants from the Southern stand of 'Bring back Ivanovic' and 'Matic must go' punctuated the morgue-like atmosphere of the first half, in which the Wolves gave the Force a mauling.

Saso Petrovski's goal in the 42nd second stunned the home team, who

seemed disoriented for the rest of the half. To their credit, they came out recharged in the second half and totally dominated the game.

Cheers replaced jeers in the 60th minute when Claudio Pelosi scored. But the Wolves' Scott Chipperfield, against the run of play, gatecrashed the party when he smacked a low drive into the bottom right hand corner of the net in the 89th minute.

Will the Force find a reliable keeper before the season ends? As the ball landed in the back of the net, scenes reminiscent of a cup final enveloped the stadium. Force players sank to their knees, holding their heads. The crowd, who had anticipated that the Force would snatch a late winner, aired their disbelief and disappointment.

Many headed for the exits. The question on everyone's lips now is: 'Will Zoran Matic leave the Force?'

From the opening whistle Wollongong went on the attack and were rewarded inside the first minute when David Cervinski sent a penetrating pass to Stuart Young, who slotted the ball through a sleepy Force defence into the path of the unmarked Petrovski - 1-0 Wollongong.

With three left footers in the Wolves team - Young, Chipperfield and Alvin Ceccoli - they totally bamboozled the Force with series after series of short passes punctuated by long balls which switched play from left to right, creating openings for scoring chances.

The Force players, with no counterbalancing left-sided players, appeared sucked into defending the short plays, thus being out of position and powerless to do anything when the Wolves switched play across field.

The effervescent Young almost put the Wolves two-nil up in the opening minutes with a cracking shot which deflected just over the bar off Matthew Kemp.

The next chance went to Chipperfield, whose inswinging corner kick was plucked safely out of the air by Force keeper Knezevic.

The Force surged forward, but just as Bradley Hassell and Damian Mori looked dangerous, Coast FM Bianco Builders Player of the Match David Cervinski dispossessed Mori, who looked decidedly unfit, and sent the Wolves back into attack through Paul Reid and Young.

As the Force struggled to gain and keep possession, the crowd voiced its disapproval. The atmosphere was not exactly conducive to encouraging the home team!

Louis Brain, making his comeback after his feats at the Under 17 World Cup, must have suffered culture shock. He was so far forward that he hardly got a touch, as Cervinski, Robbie Stanton and

Ceccoli took possession each time the Force attacked.

Michael Cartwright and Angelo Costanzo looked dangerous coming from the back, but their efforts fizzled out. Chipperfield caused huge problems with his pace, forcing Aurelio Vidmar into very unprofessional looking fouls, and skipping around Alex Tobin as if he weren't there.

Cervinski then went into referee Craig Zetter's little black book for dangerous play on Mori, but this didn't slow Cervinski down - he was all over the pitch, desperate to win.

With the Force looking totally disorganized, boozing from the crowd intensified. To make matters worse, Dong Ki Kim dragged Matt Horsley to the ground, earning his fourth caution of the season and putting him out for Friday's game against Northern Spirit.

Pelosi started to look dangerous, but was continually caught offside, as was Mori.

Knezevic was called into action again to make a brilliant save from Reid, Kim appeared to dive and could have been sent off, but referee Zetter, in only his second NSL match, used a bit of common sense and had a quiet word instead.

Knezevic then saved the Force again, denying a crackerjack shot from Petrovski. Half time 1-0 Wollongong.

Second half. What a turn around! Out came the Force determined to win. Nick Sabljak replaced Hassell. Suddenly the Force looked dangerous. Controversy reigned as Kim passed to Sabljak who chipped the ball up for Mori in the 18 yard area.

It appeared to come off a Wollongong arm, but the referee refused to award a penalty. Vidmar and Sabljak struck up a potentially lethal partnership, but Stanton and Cervinski had their measure. Cervinski and Pelosi indulged in a few shoving matches, but Cervinski won out in the one-on-one tackles.

The niggling seemed to fire up Pelosi, and in the 60th minute he attempted to score from a great build up between Mori, Vidmar and Kim.

He launched himself at Kim's cross, attempted a scissor kick, missed, but the ball fell at his feet and he scooped it into the net while prostrate - 1-1.

How fickle are the fans! Suddenly they wanted to encourage their



Wolves' second scorer, Scott Chipperfield.

team. Anything that went wrong from that point on was blamed on the referee!

Eight minutes later Pelosi almost scored again, making Les Pogliacomi work for the first time.

Mori then bustled his way into the box to earn a corner which came to nothing, Talladira, on for Louis Brain, attempted a high shot which

Pogliacomi easily saved, then Kim sent a shot centimetres wide of the left hand post.

Wollongong replied through Young, spurring Knezevic into action. Then the unbelievable happened. Vidmar nudged his Wolves counterpart to give away a ridiculous foul.

The crowd went berserk. Petrovski sent the ball into the box for Young - just past the post!

Kim took a long shot, Vidmar appeared to elbow Stanton in the face, Sabljak threatened to score - then Mori - then Vidmar.

Surely the goal must come? Vidmar was cautioned for a foul on Petrovski and the fans went mad again - another key player out next week! The Force earned a corner, the Wolves cleared. Costanzo pumped the ball forward again, but Pelosi and Mori were caught offside.

Then Chipperfield stole the points. Horsley passed to Esala Masi who stopped the ball. Chipperfield ran onto it and slammed it goalward. Knezevic somehow managed to tangle it between his ankles - 2-1 Wollongong.

One last desperate attempt by the Force found the back of the net, but Mori was offside - no goal.



One of the few Force stars: sweeper Angelo Costanzo.

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Olympic go top after Capital display



CANBERRA COSMOS 1

Arranz 49

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3

Mendez 34, Cardozo 45, Baillie 72

Friday night at Bruce Stadium, Canberra. Crowd 1,795

MATCH STATS

CANBERRA COSMOS:
Barlow, Milin, Popovich,
Polak, Watkins, Hamilton
(Purdue 65), James,
Hooker, Roberts (Kolpak
73), De Jesus, Arranz



SYDNEY OLYMPIC:
Bouhoustos, Zoricich,
Baillie, Juric, Phillips,
Cardoza, Emerton,
Mendez (Carle 80),
Wilson, Zorbas, Tome
(Arambasic 76)

Yellows:

Cosmos: Barlow (44), Roberts (24)
Olympic: Emerton (37), Phillips (93)

Best Players:

3: MENDEZ (OLYMPIC)
2: Phillips (Olympic)
1: James (Cosmos)

Referee: S. Micallef



Olympic's hard-working midfield of Marcus Phillips (left) and Gabriel Chee Chee Mendez.

Round two that secured the points for Olympic then.

But it was really the Gabriel Mendez show as he performed superbly and had a hand-in each of the three goals.

His work with the tireless Marcus Phillips in the midfield provided the foundation for the win (pic above.)

The win moves UTS Sydney Olympic to the top of the table for the first time this season, and on their form they could stay there for a good period of time.

With Brisbane losing on Saturday night, Olympic are now two points clear of the chasing pack.

The win last Friday night came about through one of the best first halves of football played by the visitors. They played patient football, distributing unerringly and creating valuable goal-scoring opportunities.

Even so, they must take note that whilst Olympic were at full-strength, Canberra were decimated not only through injuries, but also suspensions. Five possible first team players were missing.

David Winnie, Danny Burt and Michael Musitano were each under suspension whilst both Gaby Gonzalez and Alex Castro were out injured.

Further to this Brian Hamilton and Toplica Popovich were carrying injuries into the game.

The game also saw the return of Norman Tome who has missed all of the first third of the season. Olympic coach Branko Culina was keen to get Tome to play given his unbelievable scoring record against Canberra.

Socceroo Brett Emerton was the first with a chance to score after only three minutes. A long throw from Chris Zoricich was nodded on by Tome for Emerton to head just over the bar.

Canberra weren't without their share of opportunities in what was to be a very open game. Jason Polak, now with a lot more responsibility on his shoulders took charge in offence with a number of good runs down the wings.

In the 34th minute the patience paid off. The ball was played down the left with ex-Cosmos defender Lindsay Wilson taking it to the by-line. His cut-back towards the penalty spot found the on-coming Gabriel Mendez who side-footed past everyone to give his side a deserved lead.

A few minutes later Hamilton sent a ball to the edge of the box for De Jesus to chest down into the path of Arranz, but the youngster skied his shot.

For the rest of the half, Olympic applied the pressure and even though Canberra were conceding corner after corner, they were sucking it up comfortably.

Then a little Mendez magic in first half time added-on saw him beat a few players before taking the ball into the box and whilst attempting to round the keeper was brought down by Barlow thus earning a penalty. Cardozo converted with ease.

Canberra came out the more positive in the second half looking to come back and gain a result. It took only four minutes before they were on the board.

Something special from David Arranz was what was needed. He rode a foul before dribbling past two defenders and as he was falling near the edge of the box, sent a shot into the top corner of the near post giving Bouhoustos no chance.

The goal inspired both the Canberra team and their supporters.

For the next 20 minutes they were playing like a team which could just get the equaliser. Harry James, who was not at his best in the first half, just took over in the second.

His runs down the right and fighting spirit helped to set up some good positions for attempts on goal. In the 55th minute he set free Daniel Watkins on the right. The cross was met by De Jesus, but his half-volley went straight at the keeper.

Then came the third and final goal for Olympic. A Mendez free kick from the right saw Baillie rise above the rest of the pack to glance his header in off the far post.

The game then seemed to lose fire. Neither team was interested in attacking until the last few minutes. The only worthwhile note from this period was the booking of Baillie which now suspends him from the Brisbane game this weekend.

Branko Culina was more pleased about his team's overall performance during the last month than the game just played. Referring to the way Olympic played last season, "we're trying to be more consistent and I think we are slowly improving."

Yet to the game itself "once we scored we were comfortable. Missing Scott Thomas hurt, but tonight we could have scored a dozen. We were a touch too good for them".

Tom Sermanni, Cosmos' coach, was unhappy with the first stanza, saying "we allowed them to dictate the game in the first half and I was disappointed with the lack of initiative", but regarding the second he said "I am quite pleased with the way we battled back."



Cosmos' Harry James: his work tonight was excellent, but it wasn't enough to stop an Olympic win.

By Nick Guoth

Twice now Scott Baillie has broken the hearts of the home-town Canberra supporters when he glanced in a header to put the game out of reach of the Canberra Cosmos.

His goal was the final of the match bringing the scoreline to 3-1, and it stopped any comeback from the undermanned Canberra side.

It was as good as his winner back in



Olympic's Scott Baillie: he loves scoring against Canberra this year!

nice move on the right sent a low hard shot that Grant Barlow saved well.

Canberra then generated a breakaway in the 20th minute. Ivo De Jesus fed Polak on the left and with a number of attackers in the middle, his cross was unable to find any of them.

Then in the space of two minutes Olympic had two excellent possibilities to take the lead. An attempted clearance from Brian Hamilton rebounded off a player and back to Pablo Cardoza, but his shot only found the

Marcus Phillips then tried his luck from long range with an audacious chip. Barlow needed to back-track quickly before tipping the ball over the bar.

Rufer's magic casts a spell over Eddie's Stallions

MARCONI STALLIONS 0

FOOTBALL KINGZ 3

Mennillo 37, de Jong 64, Van Steeden 86

Saturday night at Marconi Stadium, Sydney. Crowd 4,472



MATCH STATS:



MARCONI STALLIONS: M
Turnbull, D Longo, M Smith, C Care, B Farah, B Renaud, A Duric (S Babic 46), K Trajanovski (P K Kim 60), V Zoric, B Maloney (C), F Awaritefe (Karl 79)



FOOTBALL KINGZ: J
Batty, M Stergiopoulos, L Jones, F de Jong (R Van Steeden 86), D Mennillo (J Perry 73), R Middleby (J Perry 73), W Rufer (C Jackson 67), H Ngata, L Osman, I Vichelich,

Yellows:

Marconi: Buddy Farah 68
Football Kingz: Lee Jones 9, Marcus Stergiopoulos 63, Chris Jackson 82

Best Players:
3. **FRED DE JONG**
2. Ivan Vichelich
1. Lee Jones

Referee: Jeremy Blaney

By Paul Goodwin

When Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic shook hands with his Kingz counterpart, Wynton Rufer, after his side had been humbled 3-0 at Marconi Stadium on Saturday night it was with a polite shrug of the shoulders and a metaphorical bow to greater wisdom.

Krncevic and Rufer had played together in Europe and have a great respect for one another. The Marconi boss admitted after the game that when he heard that Rufer was to start only his third game for the Auckland-based side he feared the worst.

If Marconi suffered cruel luck at Northern Spirit a week earlier it was certainly no easier for them here.

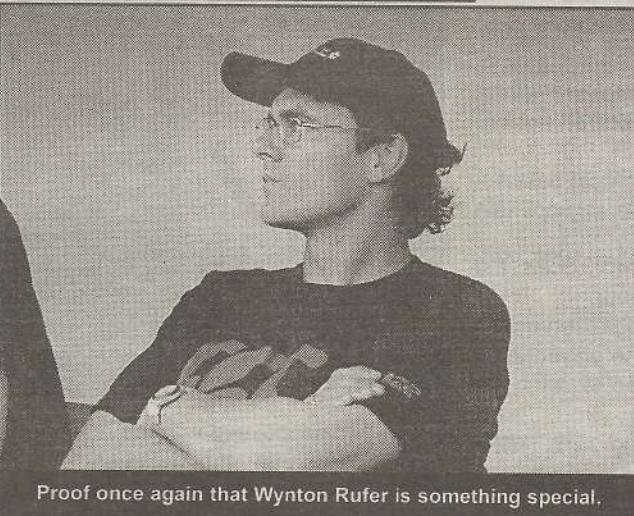
Krncevic was not going to blame lady luck, the warm weather or his absent key players the injured Danny Invincible, Darren McDonald and Mark Babic or the suspended Chad Gibson, however, as he declared that his team had been "outplayed, out-maneuvred, out-disciplined and outfought."

It was, he said, the worst performance of the season and many observers felt one of their most disappointing in a long time.

Krncevic was full of praise for Rufer whose side, he said, taught us a lesson on how football should be played.

Rufer was a world class player and his on-field influence was apparent, leaving the field at the 67 minute mark with his task already completed.

The Marconi midfield was ineffective, a point not lost on Krncevic who, while agreeing that the last two goals were probably the fault of his young keeper Michael Turnbull, was not going to punish the promising custodian for the comprehensive loss.



Proof once again that Wynton Rufer is something special.

"He has to learn that he will make mistakes, that is part of the game," he went on.

The damage began in the first half and was rammed home in the second.

Marconi squandered a number of first half chances when the much maligned Kingz defence was all at sea and needed all hands on deck to clear the danger.

That they did so was testament to their resourcefulness and team spirit, developed after many trips to Australia already this season.

They travel on the day of the game which is a punishing regime, as former Carlton star Marcus Stergiopoulos explained after the game.

It's a big ask to travel that far with the time difference every second week and play when they would probably rather be getting to bed for the night back home.

"We got there on pure adrenalin," said Stergiopoulos as he shook hands with admirer and Marconi crowd favourite, Francis Awaritefe, in the car park, once the players had cooled down.

Stergiopoulos was one of the men who helped destroy Marconi with some stout defending in the first half and some incisive runs down the left in the second.

Many other Kingz team members played well; for instance unsung local defender Lee Jones, whose two years playing university football in the USA has improved his game enormously.

Also strong was wingman Ivan Vichelich, but the best performance, apart from that of born-again Rufer, whose midfield influence was enormous, with vision and presence in huge measure, was former Marconi star Fred de Jong who delighted in scoring the second with a towering trademark header.

De Jong had turned up at training during the week in his 1988 Marconi tracksuit, much to the amusement of his teammates at the newly formed Auckland club. He sported a grin from ear to ear when he came off the field to be substituted very late in the game.

When Kris Trajanovski burst into the area in the eighth minute and fired in a low shot that Jason Batty saved well at the base of the right post, it did not auger well for the Kingz who were under some pressure in that opening period.

That they lived dangerously for a while was an understatement.

Christian Care put one over the bar

from right in front a minute later and newcomer Alex Duric combined well with Trajanovski, who set up skipper Brad Maloney with a chance in the 14th that the new Socceroo lobbed over the bar, with the keeper beaten.

When Kingz defender Che Bunce blocked another Maloney shot in the 27th and it fell to Awaritefe the big striker's firm shot ballooned off the sentry, Stergiopoulos, straight to Vlado Zoric who somehow drove the ball wide from right in front. It was a glaring miss.

Rufer began to make his influence count, setting up chances with long passes and clever ball-winning techniques.

He has played sparingly this season, but his decision to start this particular game was a master-stroke. Hoping to spend the season largely on the sidelines he wore his boots again for this one.

Unlike a previous occasion when his superb skill produced a goal-to-remember in the side's comeback point at Newcastle, when he wore brother and co-coach Shane Rufer's boots, he was very much his own man here.

He laid on a ball for de Jong in the 29th with a cross from the right that the big man volleyed over from close range, nevertheless putting the writing on the wall.

The opening goal and ice-breaker arrived in the 37th when Vichelich on the right cut the ball back to the far post where Rufer rose high to head back to the near post for the leaping Dino Mennillo to nod past Turnbull with some precision. It was a simple goal, to the naked eye, but betrayed the class of Rufer and his methods.

Playing a European style of game, was his and brother Shane's aim and that included playing the ball to feet and making the simple things look easy. This was never clearer than in the lead-up to this goal.

De Jong had seen his initial shot blocked after being set up well by Mennillo and it was due reward for the latter player that he was on hand to tuck the goal away at the finish.

There could have been more first half goals at each end.

Christian Care executed a superb tackle on Robert Middleby right in front of goal in the 44th after another Rufer pass while Jones was able to make an even more significant tackle on Duric in the 45th when the former Gippsland, Adelaide Sharks and Singapore-based player had played a one-two with Maloney and looked certain to score.

Jones was also the winner in a race to the ball in a swift counter-attack by Sean Babic who showed his customary pace after replacing Duric at half time. Just as Babic looked about to beat Batty from inside the area Jones got in his challenge to steer the ball at Batty instead of past him and the keeper did the rest with an easy take.

The Kingz were growing in confidence and when Levent Osman gave four different defenders the go by inside the box in the 54th it needed a timely deflection from Care to deny a second goal to seal the match much sooner.

That goal did arrive, though, in the 64th.

Stergiopoulos got away down the left where he was finding more and more space and delivered a deep probing cross to the far post. Dominic Longo, back after a long lay off, was in the vicinity but the young keeper Turnbull left his line, deciding it was his ball, and de Jong outjumped him to send a looping header over him and into the roof of the net.

Krncevic brought on another player who had been out with long term injury, Pan-Keun Kim, to bolster the defence, also adding his creative skills but the Korean was unable to do more than make one run forward and put a long range shot well wide.

The 3-0 win was wrapped up in the 88th minute.

De Jong made way for Riki Van Steeden and within less than a minute of arriving on the scene the substitute arrived at the near post to steer in a low cross from a tight angle on the right by fellow-replacement Jonathan Perry, who slid in well before Turnbull could react to deny a dynamic finish by the Auckland man.

The Kingz left Sydney after again winning against a team of high fliers, having already beaten Sydney Olympic a month earlier.

It was only the team's fourth win but they have beaten some good sides in the process.

Shane Rufer revealed that the nightmare double trips by Perth and the Kingz may not now eventuate as two of the Kingz upcoming matches coincide with important international games by New Zealand, both on tour of the far east and at home in January.

It looks as if the eight to nine players likely to be called up for duty would be more than enough for the side to claim dispensation to postpone two matches, at least including one against Perth and another at home against Parramatta Power.

With this win and this decisive result maybe the Auckland public will at last turn out in numbers to show their appreciation of what is clearly becoming a quality team and one with realistic finals series ambitions.

SU43 - Brazil or not Brazil? Who really cares anymore?

October 1999

Studs Up

The Australian Fans' Perspective

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Flying High: Falcons beat league-leaders

**BRISBANE STRIKERS 0
GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1**

MacNicol 26



Saturday night at Suncorp Metway Stadium. Crowd 2,100

MATCH STATS:



STRIKERS: 1. Bolton, 2. Gwynne, 5. Bell (19. Baldwin 77'), 6. Ditton (11. DiLosa 61'), 8. Pilic (7. Smeltz 75'), 9. Foster, 12. Dwyer, 13. McLaren, 16. Grierson, 17. Harris 18. Meredith.



GIPPSLAND: 1. Jevdjovic, 2. Fak, 4. Durakovic, 6. MacNicol, 7. Vargas (17. Hastie 90'), 8. Bell, 9. Puca, 11. Hutchinson, 13. Savage, 14. Marcina, 16. Nilo (12. Kakos 77'). Sub not used: 15. Buahagiar

Yellow Cards:

Brisbane: Jeremy Harris 58'; Gippsland: Clayton Bell 42', Doug Marcina 52'

Best Players:

1. BOJO JEVDJEVIC (GIPPSLAND)
2. Brian MacNicol (Gippsland)
3. Peter Grierson (Brisbane)

Referee: Matthew Breeze

By Cameron Atfield

Brisbane's stranglehold on top position came to an abrupt end at a wet Suncorp Metway Stadium on Saturday night, when they were beaten 1-0 by the Gippsland Falcons.

Brian MacNicol scored the winner for the visitors in the first half, allowing Sydney Olympic to leapfrog the Strikers into top spot.

Persistent rain kept the crowd down to a meager 2,100, and most of those hardy souls must have wondered why they bothered as they watched a dour, uninspiring game.

Gippsland started brighter of the two teams, with two chances in the first four minutes for John Hutchinson. Both his shots went wide.

MacNicol continued the Falcons dominance when he had a good chance 11 minutes. He did well to turn in the area, but his weak shot was well wide to the left.

The Strikers' first penetration of Gippsland's defence, marshaled by former Socceroo stalwart Mehmet Durakovic, came in the 12th minute through Peter Dwyer, but the Falcons defence shut down his run with ease.

It was the first sign of a period of Strikers dominance in this less-than-epic encounter.

It took 22 minutes for the Strikers to record their first real shot on goal. Youngster David Pilic, surely one of the finds of the season, put in a long-range shot which Falcons keeper Bojo Jevdjovic dealt with easily.

That seemed to wake up Brisbane's attack.

Jeremy Harris got on the end of a Peter Grierson lay-off and hammered his shot in, but he found Jevdjovic in fine form. The animated keeper dived to his

left to push the ball wide.

Brisbane's renewed confidence in attack suffered a major setback in the 26th minute, when the Falcons scored against the run of play.

Ex-Queenslander MacNicol beat flurid Clint Bolton, who was an uncertain starter, with a soft header.

As if to fit the mood of the locals, the drizzle turned into a downpour.

The Falcons fought to preserve their lead by playing with just one player, Juan Nilo, up front and attempted to catch the Strikers on the break.

Their counter-attacking ploy nearly paid off just before half time.

Glenn Gwynne made an uncharacteristic defensive error, allowing Nilo to line up a thunderous shot.

Luckily for the beaten Bolton, the ball hammered into the crossbar.

If people found the first half a little tiring, then the second half could well have induced a coma.

In the 56th minute, Falcon Clayton Bell woke the spectators with a long-range effort after a sloppy Strikers clearance. His shot found Bolton well off his line, but did not find the back of the net.

It was the only second half chance for either side until the 70 minute mark.

The Strikers started to play with more urgency, and Dwyer had a half-chance. Unfortunately for him, his strong header went to the right of goal.

The Strikers' best chance for an equaliser came in the 74th minute when Grierson's long-range volley forced Jevdjovic into a great diving save.

Brisbane had a handful of half-chances, but their hopes were dashed by the sound of referee Matthew Breeze's full-time whistle.

Gippsland coach Jeff Hopkins put the result down to his team's fighting spirit.

"One thing this team has got is great heart - a real passion to play the game and stick together," he said.

"We came up here to get something out of the game. We watched how they played during the week and we really tried to cut them at the source and I thought we did quite well preventing those angled balls into the box."

Hopkins said his team did well to hold on to their lead.

"We had two or three really good chances to go into half time more than one goal up. In the second half, we got a bit anxious I think because we haven't been in that position that often this season," he said.

"There was a few hairy moments right at the end when they got the ball into the box a fair bit, but we handled it quite well."

Hopkins said his team did not approach the game against the league leaders differently to any other game.

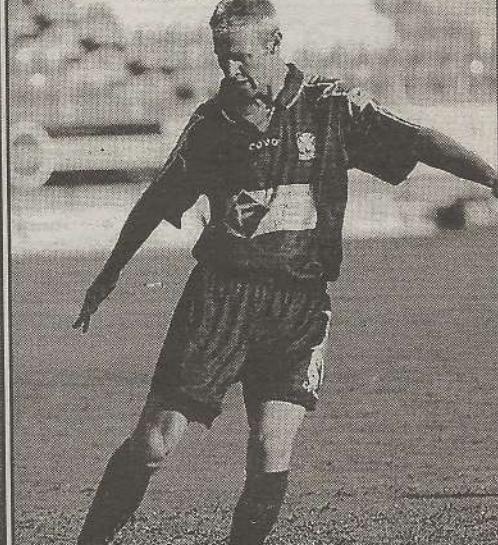
"At the start of the season we set out to give each game 100 per cent and be well organised, regardless of if we were playing the top or bottom team," he said.

"That's what I expect from the team as a bare minimum every week."

Strikers coach John Kosmina was



Brisbane's best player Peter Grierson: "We were that close to winning," he seems to be saying.



Falcons scorer Brian MacNicol.

he has been over the past few weeks because he's been pretty crook," he said.

"(Reserve keeper) Danny Duke is injured, so I was looking at the QAS keeper as well, but he kicked a sprinkler training on Wednesday morning.

"Clint should be OK for next week. The doctors had a look at him tonight before the game and they were happy with the way he's improved. But at the moment, there's not much of a choice."

Kosmina said Duke's injury was more serious than anyone had imagined, and he could be forced to enter the transfer market.

"Dukey goes back to the specialist on the 23rd. If he's still no good we'll have to find another keeper," he said.

BRISBANE NEWS

It had been a while since the Brisbane Strikers commanded front page attention from Brisbane's only daily newspaper, the Courier-Mail.

From memory, the last time the Strikers achieved such a feat was back in May, 1997.

It was the brightest moment in Queensland soccer history, as 40,000 people crammed into Lang Park to watch Frank Farina's Strikers defeat Sydney United to take the Ericsson Cup.

The Courier-Mail reflected this achievement with blanket coverage of the lead-up to the match and, of course, the post-match celebrations.

This time around though, the mood is a little grimmer.

Saturday's front page headline screamed 'Soccer debt crisis threat to Strikers'.

The story, co-written by Chris Griffith and Gary Legg, told a sorry tale of the imminent financial collapse of the Queensland Soccer Federation and, with it, the Brisbane Strikers.

The repayment of a \$875,000 debt to director (and former Brisbane Lord Mayor) Clem Jones had, according to the Courier-Mail, prompted other creditors to call in almost \$500,000 in debts.

It continued to speculate on the Strikers' future in the wake of strict new financial criteria to make the cut in a new, revamped NSL next season.

The article has ruffled some feathers in the QSF camp, and at least one board member has hinted at the possibility of legal action against the paper.

While the Strikers continue to do the job on the park, it seems the actions

of those off it could undo all the good work done by John Kosmina and his team.

Meanwhile, the visiting Solomon Islands Olympic team was given a footballing lesson last Tuesday night by an experimental Brisbane Strikers outfit at Perry Park.

In friendly match watched by around 200 people, the unfamiliar Strikers line-up dominated most aspects of play.

Nick Meredith put the Strikers ahead before the break, but it was the second half that proved to be more entertaining.

Greg Di Losa put the Strikers further ahead before young QAS keeper Nathan Coe, who came on for Clint Bolton at half time, was beaten by a well taken Solomon Islands goal.

Shane Smeltz restored the two-goal buffer with a great long range effort, proving he could be a player to watch as the season unfolds.

Somehow evading the substitute rules (this was, after all, a friendly match), Clint Bolton came back on to the park - but this time he played up front!

He had a great chance to score when he got on the end of a Smeltz cross, but he showed the supportive crowd (who wouldn't want to see a keeper score?) just why he is the Strikers' number one goalkeeper and not a forward.

The game ended 3-1 to the Strikers.

The Solomon Islanders received generous applause from the small crowd and now head to New Zealand to play in the Oceania qualifiers for Sydney 2000.

Four wins on the trot: Glorious summer to come?

PERTH GLORY 3

Edwards 19, Despotovski 25 (pen), Boutsianis 52
SOUTH MELBOURNE 1
Anastasiadis 57

Sunday night at Perth Oval. Crowd 12,385



MATCH STATS:



PERTH GLORY:
Petkovic, Trajkovski,
Harnwell, Naven,
Edgar, Miller, Ergic,
Wehrman (Carbone
45), Boutsianis, Despotovski (Thorpe
73), Edwards.



SOUTH MELBOURNE:
Udvaracz, De Amicis,
Blatsis, Orlic, Iosifidis,
Goutzoulis, Panopoulos,
Clarkson (Magnacca 70),
Lozanovski, Anastasiadis
(Mustafa 77), Curcija (Coveny 54)

Yellows:

Glory: Trajkovski 2, Naven 78
South Melbourne: Lozanovski 14,
Orlic 27, Clarkson 32, Anastasiadis 62,
Iosifidis 84

Reds:

South Melbourne: Udvaracz 25

BEST PLAYERS:

3-GARETH NAVEN (GLORY)
2-Alastair Edwards (Glory)
1-Kasey Wehrman (Glory)

Referee: Mark Shield



South keeper Milan Udvaracz. Red-carded for allegedly spitting at Ally Edwards.

utes when Bobby Despotovski, who had a good start to the game, frustrated the South Melbourne defence with his skill and speed.

After 16 minutes Despotovski got a good ball into the area leaving Ivan Ergic with a chance to head Glory into the lead but his clear header went wide.

The home fans didn't have to wait long for the opening goal. Trajkovski found space on the right in the 19th minute and sent in a perfect cross to Edwards who headed it past the keeper, the ball just out of his reach.

In the midfield Glory were dominating completely, shutting out and frustrating South Melbourne. Wehrman finding some extra care from opposition players as the match went on. Miller was keeping Goran Lozanovski close, hardly letting him get near the ball.

Lozanovski's white boots creating a few songs from a very vocal shed and showing visiting players never to be flamboyant when playing at Perth Oval.

A Lozanovski tackle on Scott Miller resulted in a booking shortly after.

In the 30th minute the match came to its pivotal point. South Melbourne keeper Udvaracz spat on Edwards for some unknown reason, Edwards not taking kindly to the offence. The spitting incident resulted in a red card for the keeper infuriating the South players and delighting the crowd.

The South players circled the referee complaining but to no avail. Some were sailing very close to a booking which did happen to Blatsis whose persistent questioning of the referee cost him a yellow card.

George Goutzoulis took over the keeping duties with the goal kick being changed into a penalty as a result of the red card, which was put away by Despotovski. The Glory two nil up.

South Melbourne was getting more and more frustrated. David Clarkson was seen chasing Gareth Naven to try and headbutt the back of the Glory captain as he ran down the pitch, and 'Clarky' was soon booked for a terrible tackle.

By Dennis Gedling

Perth Glory scored their fourth win in a row over a frustrated, under-par South Melbourne at Perth Oval. Glory played some of the best soccer all season in the opening 45 minutes, completely dominating the midfield and leaving South Melbourne stunned and unable to counter it. But in the second half the Glory were woeful, letting South Melbourne back into the game, yet the home side hung on for a 3-1 win in front of over 12,000.

South Melbourne keeper Milan Udvaracz however was sensational sent off on the half-hour after spitting at Glory striker Alastair Edwards.

There were many bookings in a game that came close to boiling over many times. Perth recalled Socceroo Kasey Wehrman, who was suspended the previous week, into the line up at the expense of Dion Valle. Surprisingly Troy Halpin, who was also suspended last week, did not make the squad, illness being the reason.

Paul Trimboli was missing from the champion's side, leaving Michael Curcija and John Anastasiadis up front.

The game got off to a wet start, persistent rain just stopping as the game started, the slippery pitch making it difficult for both sides.

One of the most unpopular referees in the west Mark Shield booked Robert Trajkovski in the first 90 seconds, his tackle looking worse than it seemed.

For the first part of the game the sides were just feeling each other out with the first corner coming after seven min-

The last action of the first half (and there was plenty of it!) was a ping at goal by Trajkovski which almost beat the substitute keeper in goal.

For the second half John Carbone came on for an injured Wehrman, the constant knocks and behind play hits taking their toll.

It didn't take long for the Glory to add another goal - from a corner a deflected Jamie Harnwell header fell to Boutsianis who slotted it in with the little help from a hapless South defender.

Shortly after, an ineffective Curcija was replaced by Kiwi Vaughan Coveny which turned out to be a turning point in the performance of the visitors.

Glory suddenly fell asleep, happy to let South Melbourne come at them. The loss of Wehrman upsetting the drive Glory had from the midfield.

On the hour a poor clearance gave Lozanovski a chance to cross in to an unmarked Anastasiadis (where was marker Edgar?) and he coolly slotted the ball in to the net to make it 3-1 and South Melbourne were right back in it.

The remainder of the game was all South. In the 67th minute Anastasiadis was booked for diving and was lucky not to be sent off after retaliating at a Glory player, the striker's temper not doing him any good.

A more subdued Clarkson was subbed in the 65th minute for Anthony Magnacca and another injury blow for Glory as Despotovski limped off after 75 minutes to be replaced by big Hamilton Thorpe.

Glory had most of the possession but continually turned it over or proceeded to just be happy passing the ball amongst themselves, the midfield being a shadow of what it was in the first half.

South Melbourne were still trying to gain something from the match, ten men doing all the work against a lazy eleven.

In the 81st minute Naven was booked for a hard tackle, the only blemish on a great day for the Glory captain, clearly the best for the Glory.

Eventually the whistle went giving a sigh of relief from the Glory crowd not being too chuffed by the pathetic second half showing, a total opposite to the brilliant first half which left the reigning champions for dead.

As for South Melbourne, if they continue to play the way they do Brazil will be a massacre. Their attempt at rough tactics not pleasing the referee, booking many players and sending off one.

Quite obviously the side lacks the calming influence, not to mention vision and skill of Paul Trimboli.

But not taking anything away from the Glory, coach Stange saying that "I'm very happy with four wins in a row, this time last year we were in a slump."

In regards to the second half he said the young players did not come up to standard. Souths coach Postecoglou was "disappointed in the outcome" as far as the sending off went, he went on to say that



Glory's inspirational leader Gareth Naven. The Perth player dominated proceedings on Sunday.

his team needed to concentrate on the task at hand and not to be too wrapped up in their world club championships commitments.

When Edwards (who played another excellent game) was asked about the spitting incident he merely said that "he spat at me and you shouldn't do that if you're provoked or not provoked, I certainly didn't provoke him."

Glory now travel to Newcastle, their bogey team, while South Melbourne are at home to Carlton, the season not getting any easier for them, particularly with their Melbourne rivals in such good form. It should, nevertheless, be a top drawer encounter.

Right now, the top two, three successive championships and a good showing in Brazil are looking very distant prospects for the boys from Bob Jane stadium at the moment.

SITTER!

The New Zealand soccer fanzine

\$3 No 37, September 1999

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with Michael Utting



Sitter!

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"A superb fanzine" says Inside Soccer

Gutsy Spirit win with Perinich's late strike



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0

NORTHERN SPIRIT 1

Perinich 83

Sunday afternoon at Knights Stadium, Melbourne. Crowd 3,820

MATCH STATS:

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:

John, Rahjer (Magdic 70), Kovacevic, Kelic, Nastevski (Trupkovic 73), Kiratzoglou, Abbas, Vukadin, Silic, Reda (Vassallo 61), Cervinski

NORTHERN SPIRIT:

Perosh, Enes, Bingley, Rudan, Cranney, Moss (Lyons 80"), Culina, Arnold (Cunico 86"), Sobczyk, Griffiths, Saad (Perinich 67")



Yellow Cards:
Knights: Abbas 57

BEST PLAYERS:
3 - PEROSH (SPIRIT)
2 - Abbas (Knights)
1 - Sobczyk (Spirit)

Referee: Perry Mur

By Mark Fisher

After two straight wins on the trot for the Knights, it looked as though their finals ambitions had suddenly but emphatically veered back on track, with the Somers Street outfit sitting in a mid-table position after Round 10.

Even though the Knights were going in without the services of Zeljko Susa, who had virtually finalised his transfer to Spanish First Division club Alaves, they still had the bulk of their current starters back on the park, plus the addition of Mark Silic, who had just recovered from a hamstring strain.

Northern Spirit had also managed to get themselves away from the foot of the table, courtesy of a lucky win against Marconi the previous week. Graham Arnold included himself in the Spirit's starting lineup as their lone striker up front for much of the match.

With both sides desperate for three points in order to sustain their season recoveries, this match was shaping up to be dour defensive duel. By adding "dull" to these adjectives, you come pretty close to summing up events at Knights Stadium on Sunday.

The most important element is winning, however, and Spirit assistant coach Ian Crook said as much after his team captured the result courtesy of Tony Perinich's late goal, despite the ongoing distractions regarding off-field talk during the week.

"At the end of the day we're just concerned about matters on the pitch and getting the results", he said after the game.

To the first half 'action' for want of a better word, and it took at least seven minutes before either of the two sides could string a few useful passes together.

Adrian Cervinski managed to get a ball to Ivan Kelic wide within the first ten minutes, but Kelic's cross fell harmlessly to Mark Rudan, who cleared with ease.

Rudan went from defending to attacking soon after, sending a corner to Graham Arnold, and "Arnie" headed on nicely to a real tyer in Jack Sobczyk to his right, but Sobczyk couldn't make the most of his chance and headed directly over the bar.

The confidence of recent wins was soon showing in the Knights first half build-ups, when they strung together a number of counter-attacking movements. Alex Kiratzoglou played a big part in keeping the Spirit defence under pressure.

He set off in the 17th minute on his favoured right flank to link up with Michael Reda. Reda placed a curling cross just out of reach of a surging Adrian Cervinski, drawing exasperated cries from the home crowd.

The Northern Spirit lacked spark and confidence in midfield, despite stacking it with six men for most of the match. Robbie Slater's absence due to a foot injury was perhaps a mitigating factor in Graham Arnold playing this unusual formation.

Yet their thrusts through the centre were few and far between, with the big Nigerian Murtala Abbas doing a splendid marking job on the wily Arnold.

The best chance of the half fell to the home side, when Cervinski sent Kiratzoglou running in the direction of the



Tony Perinich: his goal and the gutsy display gave Spirit the three points.

right corner flag. Kiratzoglou then sent another perfect cross into the area, but Dean Culina was good enough to clear for Spirit over the by-line, despite the ball going perilously close to the goal he was trying to protect.

Knights coach Vlado Vanis blasted his team at half time for their lack of effort, and at first they looked more determined to break down their opponents solid back line.

A few passages of one-touch passing between Kiratzoglou, Silic, Nastevski and Reda showed promise, but brought



Spirit crowd favourite Phil Moss. Expect a larger gallery this Friday night at North Sydney as Spirit go for their third win in a row against the hapless Adelaide City.

the Knights no closer to that elusive first goal.

Vanis went to the substitute's bench in the 63rd minute, and found in Brandon Vassallo a player used to maintaining pressure on the opposition.

Immediately Vassallo sent a through ball to release Kelic along the edge of the 18-yard box, but the linesman flagged him for being in an offside position.

Ian Crook, Spirit's assistant coach, made a valuable substitution of his own, by bringing on tall forward Tony Perinich for a tired-looking Abbas Saad.

With Perinich pushing up forward in with Arnold late in the half, the Spirit had more than one target man to choose from.

The game needed a goal to enliven proceedings, and it fell to Perinich himself to cap off one fine minute of sustained pressure and well-directed passing.

The Spirit midfielders finally managed to hold the ball up and pass it around near the edge of the box in the 83rd minute. Troy Cranney then collected the ball out wide on the right, and fired into the middle of the box a well-weighted cross towards the far post.

Graham Arnold managed to nod back across goal to Tony Perinich, who then applied a simple header beyond the diving Knights 'keeper Martin John and into the back of the net. Graham Arnold's team now had a very timely lead.

The Knights tried hard to draw level, with a Cervinski cross finding Vassallo unmarked at the far post, yet John Perosh made a crucial and gutsy save in the clinches when he came off line to deny Vassallo a clear shot at goal.

Perosh capped off yet another excellent performances in goals for the Spirit men.

The Knights had only themselves to blame when the final whistle went, ruing a series of missed chances from wide in both halves. The result nevertheless will keep the Spirit's army of followers in Sydney clinging to the remote possibility of back-to-back finals appearances.

For coach Vanis, the Knights' little winning run was over. Unlike the manner of former coach Joe Biskic, Vanis was forward in singling out players for criticism, particularly Joe Rahjer, who according to Biskic, "did the job for the first forty-five minutes, but after that he dropped about 80 per cent".

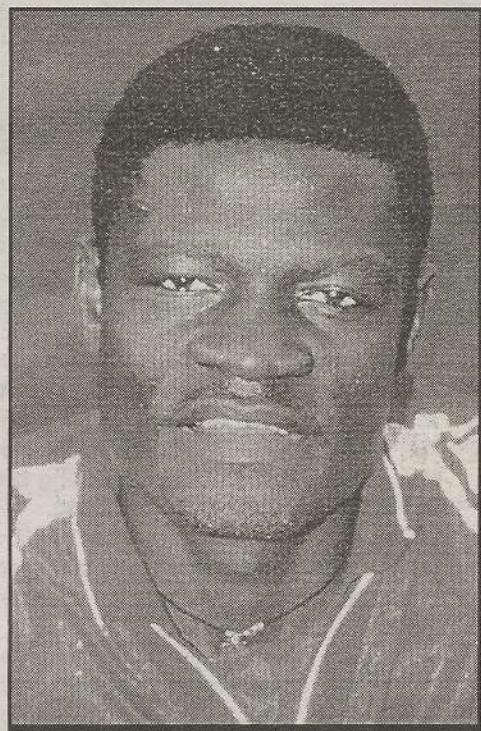
Of Brandon Vassallo's input, he had this to say: "He's very fast and tough and can run for the full ninety minutes, but

today he didn't even run".

He also alluded to a desire to dip into the transfer market for a replacement for Olyroo Zeljko Susa, who in Vanis' words "is a hardy player - the one who can hold up the ball and wait for support".

For the Northern Spirit, Ian Crook undertook media liaison duties after the match, and summed up his team's fluctuating fortunes by saying that "I am a believer in average sides having a lot of confidence and then they become good sides, but it works in the opposite as well.

"We started off well (this season), we



Big Knights defender Murtala Abbas. He kept tight reign on Graham Arnold.

had a good win away, and we played really well at South Melbourne and should have got a win, but we never did.

"And then we got beat at home by Newcastle, and since then it's been very hard to pick up our confidence."

The important thing for both the Northern Spirit and the Melbourne Knights to remember is that with the even-ness of this season's competition, there is quite a way to go and neither should totally discount their chances of featuring in the top six by May next year.

INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER



NORTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

A.C.T.A.S.	2	Sydney Olympic	2
Mrdja 8', Williams 20'		Nicolaou 27', own goal 90'	
Parramatta Power 2		Newcastle Breakers	1
Down, Gatt		Juchniewicz	
Wolves Colts 1		Newcastle Breakers Colts	3
Petkovski 9'		Hughes 41', Provost 80',	
Syd. United Colts 0		Pryce 85'	
		Wollongong Wolves	
		Aldridge 81', 90'	
Q.A.S. 2		N.S.W.I.S.	1
Davidson 44', Miner 88'		Martin 81'	
Marconi Colts 2		Sydney United	4
Babic 18', Santilli 63'		Bozinovski 22', Lo Proto 38', 75',	
Olympic Academy 2		Deak 60'	
Sarmonikas 83', Agic 88'		Northern Spirit	6
		Bilokapic 30', 67', R Griffiths 38',	
Bye - A.I.S.		Seal 40', 56', 85'	

SOUTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

VIS	3	Knights Academy 0	
Vucinic, Tsiorlas, Sastre			
Preston Lions 1		Carlton 11	
Atanasovski		Erdogan 3, Ekici 3,	
Albury Wodonga 2		Stojcevski 2, Nikolic,	
Martin, Jones		Azzopardi, own goal	
Bulleen Inter 2		Melbourne Knights 0	
Di Vito, Gotzilianis		South Melbourne 1	
Fawkner Blues 2		Mashoian	
Cardillo, Senes		South Dandenong 1	
Gippsland Falcons v Bye		Rasimi	

NORTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	B	L	F	APts
Parramatta Power	10	9	1	1	0	31	5 28
A.I.S.	11	7	2	1	2	45	14 23
Q.A.S.	11	7	1	1	3	31	15 22
Sydney Olympic	9	6	3	1	0	26	7 21
Northern Spirit	9	6	1	1	2	21	12 19
Newcastle Breakers	11	5	1	0	5	18	16 16
Marconi Stallions	8	5	0	0	3	13	15 15
N.S.W.I.S.	9	4	1	1	4	17	9 13
Sydney United	8	4	1	0	3	17	17 13
A.C.T.A.S.	10	3	3	1	4	17	24 12
Olympic Academy	10	4	0	1	6	24	39 12
Wollongong Wolves	9	3	1	1	5	10	16 10
Marconi Colts	9	2	2	1	5	14	24 8
Northern Spirit Colts	8	2	2	1	4	9	20 8
Newcastle Colts	12	2	1	0	9	14	27 9
Sydney United Colts	12	1	2	0	9	11	32 5
Wollongong Colts	8	0	1	1	7	6	33 1

SOUTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Carlton	7	7	0	0	33	3 21
VIS	7	7	0	0	23	0 21
Bulleen Inter Kings	7	6	0	1	21	10 18
Melbourne Knights	8	3	2	3	24	17 11
Gippsland Falcons	6	3	1	2	9	14 10
South Melbourne	6	3	0	3	18	9 9
South Dandenong	7	2	2	3	11	12 8
Fawkner Blues	7	2	2	3	10	16 8
Albury Wodonga	8	1	1	6	9	28 4
Knights Academy	7	1	0	6	3	11 3
Preston Lions	8	0	0	8	3	44 0

In the Northern Division National Youth League Theo Katsaros reports that Sydney Olympic fought back from a two-goal deficit to snatch a two-all draw against A.C.T.A.S. at Bruce Stadium.

An 8th minute goal to Nick Mrdja and a 20th minute strike by Adam Williams put the home side in a commanding position.

However, two-nil as we all know, is a dangerous scoreline.

Dimitri Nicolaou reduced the lead after 27 minutes and just before the break the hosts were reduced to ten men when Mrdja was sent from the field.

The visitors pressed for an equaliser in the second half and it finally arrived on the stroke of full-time. Dominique La Butte unfortunately putting the ball into his own net to hand the Olympians a point.

Parramatta Power remain on top of the league ladder after their two-one home victory over the Newcastle Breakers.

The goalscorers for the Power were Patrick Gatt and Paul Down. Peter Juchniewicz responded for the Breakers. The Power have been very impressive in their debut season but it remains to be seen if this will continue.

At the Sydney United Sports Centre the Wollongong Wolves escaped from a tough encounter with all three points courtesy of a double to Daniel Aldridge.

The Sydney United Colts held the Wolves scoreless until the final ten minutes but goals in the 81st and 90th minutes sunk the youngsters.

Sydney United recorded their second successive win after outplaying the Marconi Stallions at Marconi Stadium.

Mark Babic opened the scoring for the Stallions in the 18th minute but the lead lasted only four minutes. Steve Bozinovski equalised for Sydney United before Allan Lo Proto edged his team ahead in the 38th minute.

Sydney United extended their lead after the break when Ante Deak netted after 60 minutes.

Saul Santilli replied three minutes later but Lo Proto sealed the four goals to two victory in the 75th minute.

In Wollongong the Newcastle Breakers Colts took all three points from the Wollongong Wolves Colts and firmly cemented the Wolves Colts to the foot of the league ladder. The three-one win was the Breakers second for the season. Nick Petkovski had put the home team into the lead on 18 minutes before Adam Hughes levelled for the visitors in the 41st minute.

utes later but Lo Proto sealed the four goals to two victory in the 75th minute.

In Wollongong the Newcastle Breakers Colts took all three points from the Wollongong Wolves Colts and firmly cemented the Wolves Colts to the foot of the league ladder.

The three-one win was the Breakers second for the season. Nick Petkovski had put the home team into the lead on 18 minutes before Adam Hughes levelled for the visitors in the 41st minute.

The Wolves kept the Breakers at bay for most of the second half but two late goals to Alex Provost and William Pryce ended the scoring.

In the battle of the states, the Q.A.S. defeated the N.S.W.I.S. by two goals to one at Suncorp Metway Stadium. The Q.A.S. have once again found themselves in the top three after leading the competition for the first couple of rounds.

All goals were scored late in both halves. Mark Davidson scored in the 44th minute for the Queenslanders.

Tallan Martin equalised for the N.S.W.I.S. in the 81st minute.

It looked as if the points would be shared until Russell Miner grabbed his ninth goal this season to snatch an 88th minute winner for the hosts.

A hat-trick to David Seal and a double to Paul Bilokapic helped the Northern Spirit to a six-two demolition of the Sydney Olympic Academy.

Ryan Griffiths (below left) was the other scorer for the Spirit.

For Olympic, Gregor Agic and Anthony Sarmonikas found the net.

The final match of Round 11 takes place on Monday night at North Sydney Oval when the Northern Spirit Colts host the Marconi Stallions.

In the Southern Division Roy Hay reports that Carlton demolished a luckless Preston Lions by eleven goals to one in the Southern Division on Saturday at Connor Reserve.

Preston's regular keeper injured his leg at training on Tuesday night and his place had to be taken by an outfield player, which meant the young Lions were always going to be under pressure.

For Carlton, Isayim Erdogan and Deniz Ekici each scored hat-tricks and Ace Stojcevski chipped in with two goals. Mathew Nikolic and Colin Azzopardi got a goal apiece and the other one was an own goal.

Dimce Atanasovski scored the consolation goal for the Lions.

The win keeps Carlton's nose ahead of the VIS after eight rounds.

The Victorian Institute of Sport recorded a three-nil win over Melbourne Knights Academy, meaning that the VIS goal has still not been breached this season.

Denis Vucinic fired in a pile driver from 30 metres in the twenty-fifth minute to put his side ahead, but the second goal did not come till more than an hour had been played.

George Pantelidis sent in a precision through ball and Mark Tsiorlas latched on to it to finish well.

Juan Sastre, returning after long term injury, made it three with a shot which flew into the top left hand corner of the net.

The Academy put up a lot of resistance, orchestrated by Ransford Banini and Hrvoje Matkovic (above right) came closest to scoring for the Knights.

Cheryle Martin reports that in the upset of the round Albury Wodonga gained its first win of the season at home to the Melbourne Knights.

The borderers are becoming the Knights' bogey team having knocked them off last season as well.



A.C.T.A.S.'s Nick Mrdja ... scored a goal then got sent off.

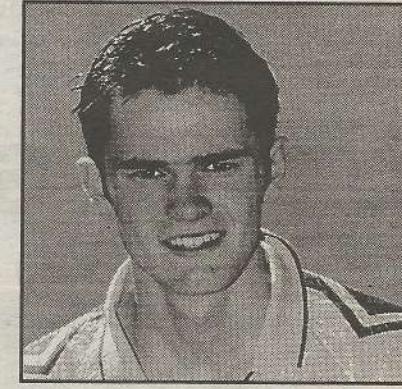
The Warriors controlled the game from the start in very windy conditions.

Javi Martinez attacked the heart of the Knights' defence in 15 minutes, then laid the ball off for David Martin, whose left foot shot flew past Dale Barbuto.

Dary Binney, Jason Whitten, Ryan Hayes and John Ritchie repelled the Knights' counter-attacks and Sam Chambers kept expertly behind them.

Chambers pushed an Anthony Pelikan free kick round the post in the Knights' attempt to level the score.

Carmelo Impiombata was sent off reducing the Knights to ten men, and against the wind the Warriors



gradually regained control through Paul Brunec, Adam Griffith and Martinez.

Ritchie's free kick found Martin and the subsequent cross gave Mitchell Jones the chance to beat Barbuto for the second goal in 65 minutes.

Bulleen Inter also caused an upset by defeating South Dandenong by two goals to one at Mahoney's Reserve. Andrew Mashoian's ninth goal of the season gave South Melbourne an early lead after 12 minutes, but just on the stroke of half-time Rocco Di Vito equalised for Bulleen.

Chris Gotzilianis put Bulleen in front in 53 minutes and neither side could add to its score in a tightly contested second half.

Fawkner Blues had a two-one win over South Dandenong. Robert Senes put the Blues in front in 13 minutes, but within a couple more South Dandenong was level as Lirim Rasimi replied.

It looked odds on for the draw, but in the 89th minute Ross Cardillo grabbed a winner for the Blues.

TRACI BARTLETT SHOCK: 'I'M QUITTING FOOTBALL'

By Anissa Tann-Darby

One of women's soccer most popular players and 'quiet achievers' shocked the women's soccer world by announcing her retirement.

Traci Bartlett retired this week after an eight year career which started in 1991 with a debut as an 18-year-old against Swedish giants Malmo.

This was quickly followed up by an 'A' International debut v PNG in the 1991 Women's World Cup and indeed she scored on her debut with a 25 yd rocket shot at Marconi stadium.

Unfortunately being one of Australia's best ever defenders she never managed to repeat this effort in her next 44 appearances!

As she said, "I lost the enthusiasm and drive to train on a daily basis. A chronic knee injury has meant that I am always pain and I stopped enjoying playing."

"If it ever recovers I'll review the situation but at the moment it's the end of high level football."

Traci's career started with Smithfield Hotspurs and included exotic teams such as Barnsley Utd, Mt Druitt, North Rocks, before moving to national league teams Melita Eagles and her favourite team, Marconi.

The highlight of her career was her outstanding performances in the 1999

Women's World Cup in the USA, where many people felt she was Australia's best player.

It was there she played against Sun Wen whom she rates as the best female player in the world.

She also added that "the best team I've played in was the Marconi team that won the National Cup.. the back four of Tracey Weston, Anissa Tann-Darby, Kaye Yardin and myself was awesome we hardly lost and had a great time on and off the pitch."

Her football career has taken her around the world to Brazil, Argentina, Italy, China, Japan, USA and virtually all of Europe.

"The travel has been great and I made heaps of friends in the game."

On her retirement, and typical of Traci she wanted to thank a number of people who helped her. In particular her Mum and Dad who always supported her through tough times, Steve Darby who gave her an international debut as an unknown, and present coach Chris Tansey who has helped her at both state and national level.

She also greatly appreciated the support of close friend Kim Revell who has helped her in the painful times.

"I have played with 'Barts' at club,



Traci Bartlett at World Cup 99 in the USA seen here battling Ghana's Stella Quartey. Many said 'Barts' was one of our best players in the World Cup.

state and international level, not only is she a great defender, with a surprisingly ruthless streak - and as one player saw a great right hook - but she is one of the game's most popular players and will be greatly missed in the Australian team by both players and staff.

WORLD CUP 2002 IN AUSTRALIA?

FIFA announced last week in Tokyo that the next Women's World Cup will be moved to 2002 (from 2003) in order to capitalise on the Men's World Cup promotion.

Sepp Blatter, FIFA Chief also strongly endorsed the bid of Australia for this momentous occasion.

Warren Fisher, the CEO of women's

soccer added "the cards are starting to fall our way.. we are now a mile ahead"

"What a great moment this would be.. another milestone in the meteoric rise of women's soccer in the 90s," he added.

LAST WORD ON THE CALENDAR

Despite 90% of the response to the Matildas' calendar being positive, Sunni Hughes perhaps summed up the furore and put any criticism in perspective when she said: "it's a calendar ..not a crime."

Spirit's Central Coast sojourn



Shane Lyons: an inspired performance for Spirit against Central Coast.

By Greg Stock

Northern Spirit took to the Central Coast to spread their footballing message last Wednesday night, with a friendly match against Super League side the Central Coast Coasties.

The venue was Morrie Breen Oval, normally the home ground of the Wyong Rugby League side but for one night only the lush playing surface was transformed into the domain of the round ball code.

Promoting the match in the local media the Coasties were rewarded with a strong crowd of 800 that also included the local federal member of parliament, Chris Hartcher and a healthy smattering of children who relished the opportunity to get close to some of their NSL idols.

Jess Van Stratten, a former Central Coast junior, accepted the offer from his old club to play the first half for the Coasties.

Still residing in the area, the Joeys goalkeeper rewarded the local fans by keeping a clean sheet for both teams.

Spirit coach Graham Arnold played Dean Culina at sweeper, Tony Faria and Ryan Griffiths as the wide players and partnered Tony Perinich and David Seal up front.

Unfortunately for Faria a leg injury cut his match short after a clash with Van Stratten as both converged on a loose ball in the penalty box.

Replaced by Paul Wearne, Shane Lyons was pushed to the left and gave an inspired display.

The only goal of the match came more through bad luck than good management. Shane Lyons put in a cross from the left but miscued his effort into Coasties

sweeper Shaun Mathews.

Mathews had little time to react as the ball cannoned into him and deflected across the goalmouth into the net.

Ten minutes later David Seal was almost rewarded for his hard work up front when he got to a deep cross at the back post and headed it past the keeper.

All at the ground bar referee Alan Sutton and his linesman thought the ball went into and through the net but it was awarded as a goal kick, much to the ire of Seal and the Spirit bench.

For much of the match Seal and Perinich were more than a handful for the Coasties defence but it was their finishing which kept the score to just 1-0.

Too often they fell frustrated and launched a succession of long distance efforts on goal which did little to trouble either Van Stratten or Meier.

While the Spirit did dominate the match Coasties coach Dale Eggleton was well pleased with their efforts, considering new signing Steve Cutler and stopper Mark Drysdale were unavailable.

Shaun Mathews their new signing from Wallsend and Shane Knight back from a season at Macarthur Rams played well, as did midfielder Stuart Sontag.

Last Super League Gold Medal Winner Peter Preston played the full ninety minutes but looked well short of full fitness in his comeback match from some

minor knee surgery.

For Graham Arnold his younger brigade of Lyons, Griffiths and Culina looked very good and gave quality service to Seal and Perinich.

It was interesting to see Spirit goalkeeper Paul Henderson play the final ten minutes of the match in the number 20 shirt at striker.

Could there be a positional switch in the offing for 'Hendo'?

CENTRAL COAST :

Jess Van Stratten (Gary Meier 46'), Darren Moore 8', Michael Daley (Ryan Marshall), Shaun Mathews, Marcus Steele, Brent Demery, Wes Bennett (Peter Ritchie), Stuart Sontag (Brett Jaeger), Adam Peatey, Paul Roberts (Nathan Byrn), Peter Preston, Shane Knight (Ryan McKendrick).

NORTHERN SPIRIT :

Paul Henderson (Jess Van Stratten 46'), Michael Cunico, Dean Culina, Paul Bilokapic, Ian Crook (Simon Catanzaro), Shane Lyons, Robert Enes (Elvis Olic), Tony Faria (Paul Wearne), Tony Perinich (Paul Henderson 80'), David Seal, Ryan Griffiths.

Referee : Alan Sutton



Brisbane Strikers coach in 1999, the former Arsenal striker John Kosmina.

The following article appeared in Vol 1 Issue 5 of the now defunct magazine LONDON SOCCER. The magazine was dated 2nd November 1978.

New Zealand writer, Roy Pilott, was then working as Assistant Editor of the magazine. He now has a management position at the Waikato Times, in Hamilton, New Zealand.

This article is quite dated - particularly with the references to Australia being an unusual place for English league players, but perhaps worth revisiting if only for nostalgia's sake.

Kosmina does the groundwork

By Roy Pilott

English talent scouts rarely have cause to places like Australia in search of new young stars - which is why Arsenal's John Kosmina had to do all the ground work to earn himself a job at the club.

Kosmina, 22, was a regular in the Australian international side when he decided to try his fortune in England. He called a friend living in England to announce his plans, and back came the word that Arsenal were interested.

He travelled the 10,000 miles from Adelaide to Arsenal to join the club in February, and after work permits were arranged, he went full time in March.

Change

"Coming here was a complete

Arsenal's John Kosmina

from 1978

change for me, both in and out of football," commented Kosmina. "But I am settling in well now and it gets better everyday."

Kosmina is the first Australian to wear the Arsenal first team shirt - which is not really surprising, because bridging the gap is very difficult.

"I am from South Australia, and when I started playing football the sport had not really taken off. There were a lot of sports in the State that had a

far bigger following - such as Rugby Union, League and Australian Rules."

"But my father pushed me toward football when I was seven or eight, so I joined a Polish club and worked my way through the grades. My father was Polish, but he did not play football himself above amateur level."

Honours

Kosmina's rise through the age groups at the club was picked up by the Australian national selector when he reached the senior team. And a little over two years ago he was selected for the international honours.

"I first played for the Australian XI, against an Italian touring side.

Things went well for me and I established a regular place. I played 53 games all told before coming to Arsenal, including 21 full internationals."

Kosmina's appearance for Arsenal in the first leg of their UEFA Cup battle with Hajduk Split in Yugoslavia was his biggest test to date - but he points out that playing against class opposition was not new to him.

On tour

"I was in the Australian team when Arsenal, Red Star and Celtic played in a tournament in Australia last year, and I also went on a tour with the side, which included games against Birmingham City and Sunderland."

"But the importance of games like that did not compare to the UEFA Cup game. My debut was a bit of a battle but I

enjoyed it really. You don't get the same enjoyment out of games like that because we were under pressure all the time - I thought I would be a bit overawed at first but I wasn't.

"It was good to be back in the big time," he added.

Kosmina picked up an injury in that game and his leg had to be put into plaster to help the healing process - but he says he is happy just to have played.

No stranger

Kosmina was no stranger to Arsenal manager Terry Neill when the player arrived last February.

"My connection with Mr Neill started when he was in charge of Tottenham Hotspur. I played against them when they were touring a couple of years ago, and then I was in the Australian team when we played Arsenal at the start of last season. So Mr Neill had a fair idea of what I could do."

It is not surprising that Kosmina could give an arm length's list of the differences he has had to cope with since moving from one side of the world to the other.

"The tradition of Australian Football clubs is primitive by English standards. Here it is football all the time, not just two nights a week."

"And life in Australia is far more casual compared to London. People might be in hurry in Australia, the same way they are here, but they don't make it so obvi-



John Kosmina in his Arsenal shirt. "I just got myself a car, which helps a lot because I have had to use public transport."

John Kosmina in 1978.

ous. There are a million people in Adelaide, but they seem to take things a lot easier."

"I have just got myself a car, which helps a lot because I have had to use public transport since coming here."

On his own form, Kosmina says he has been a little disappointed in himself.

"I have scored two goals in seven reserve games, but I have had a bit of a lapse in form."

"I want to be successful here if I can. I'd like to make a bit of a name for myself in the First Division here," he added.

*Inside Soccer would like to thank Roy Pilott for his permission to print and Grant Stantiall for helping set this up.



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Dylan Macallister: Sun, Surf and Soccer



Dylan Macallister: likes the English Premier League but would prefer to play in Spain or Italy.

By John Vratic

Dylan Macallister is your typical Australian kid next door - tall, blond, with a suntan that befits his northern beaches upbringing. He was also a member of the all conquering Australian Joeys team that almost became champions of the world in the recently concluded World Cup for Under 17s.

When I called his family home, Macallister was down at the beach. He had been away for a number of weeks touring South America and then the World Cup in New Zealand and he had missed the sea and the surf.

What made it worse was that on the South American trip they drove past the

beach almost every day but Macallister, and the team, had more important things on their mind.

A well-spoken young man, he was coach Les Scheinflug's secret weapon - normally a striker, the Joeys' coach saw Macallister as a midfielder strong man.

The Sydney Olympic youngster was used in this role to curb the opposition's danger men and it was in that role that he moved late in the final against Brazil - his target, the Brazilian star, Leo.

Leo had been dominating the midfield against his skillful, but not as physically imposing,

Aussie opponent Wayne Srhoj. Macallister did his job admirably and allowed the young Australian team back in the game.

Macallister's trodden a well worn path for a young Australian football player - started playing with his local club, Avalon, then moved onto one of the many Sports Institute established over the last ten years.

Honing his skills for two years under the watchful eyes of NSW Institute of Sport coach Kelly Cross, his talent was brought to the attention of Scheinflug and he has been a member of the Joeys team right to that fateful penalty shoot-out.

It was the South American tour that primed the team for the games against

Brazil. The intimidating tactics adopted by the world champions, in fact, had the opposite effect on the Joeys.

"They pretty much played into our hands, because of our South American tour we knew how they were going to play and what they were going to do."

"We used their tactics as a motivation and we knew what was going to happen," the Joey said.

Macallister made his first appearance in the World Cup as a substitute in the game against Brazil and scored a goal against the world champions.

"An unbelievable feeling, a personal goal came true at that moment ... unbelievable feeling to score in the World Cup," Macallister happily recalled.

He earned himself a starting berth for the next game against Germany - against the powerfully built Germans, Macallister played in midfield to match his own powerful frame against the physical strength of the Europeans.

After a slow start, the Germans went ahead early in the game and with the Australians struggling Scheinflug made a pivotal change for the second half.

Macallister was moved from the midfield to partner Scott McDonald up front and coach Scheinflug's ploy worked a treat.

"We changed the team around at half time, pushing Dylan Macallister forward, and the improvement was almost immediate, even though it took another twenty minutes to get on the board," Scheinflug commented after the 2-1 win.

With a lingering injury hindering star striker Joe Di Iorio, Macallister played a prominent role in the rest of the games, starting each game as a striker and dropping back into midfield with the introduction of Di Iorio late in most games.

Commenting on players' reactions after the loss to Brazil in the final Macallister described it as a "surreal

moment."

"It didn't hit me that we'd lost that chance and that we may never have that chance again till about four hours after the game that night when I had a chance to sit down and think about what we did."

"We'll always cherish that moment but I think we will get another chance."

Macallister is now targeting a starting role with Sydney Olympic but with a strike force of Arambasic, Cardozo, Carle and Tome it isn't going to be easy.

The task might be made easier with the impending departure of Cardozo and, possibly, another forward.

"I've been working pretty hard in training and I've done well in reserve grade, I'm hoping to get my chance in the next month or two."

But unfortunately he will more than likely become another starlet lost to Australian football with an overseas career beckoning.

"We've been talking to some European clubs about trials early in the new year ... hopefully something will come out of that."

"Maybe I'll move overseas late next year but if it happens earlier... I'm not sure at this stage."

Although, Macallister qualifies for a dual passport, making it easier for a career in the glamorous English premier league, he has his sights set elsewhere.

"The English league is a real good league (but) I've never been a real fan of it, it would be great to play there, sure, the football and the crowds are phenomenal."

"But I've always had a dream to play in Spain or Italy as a preference so hopefully that will come about and if I get a chance I'll take it."

Dylan Macallister, another player to feature on our television screens scoring goals for Real Madrid or AC Milan in the near future?

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POWER VISIT SICK KIDS

It was a day of smiles for the children and staff at The New Children's Hospital at Westmead last Friday morning. It was the annual Christmas party for all the children and a who's who of soccer and Home and Away celebrities, reported Melissa Muscat.

Amongst the stars were Home and Away's Kimberly Cooper (Gypsy) and Antoinette Byron (Natalie) and more importantly the boys from Parramatta Power - Jacob Burns and Daniel Kukucka.

Just as Jacob Burns turned up 10 minutes late in his sporty Peugeot, the four groups complete with a Santa and Mrs Clause, a Home and Away star and a Power player, made their way to the specified children's wards.

The first stop was to young Tom's ward, who recently had an abscess removed from his foot. He'd been in the hospital since Wednesday.

Power's Daniel Kukucka took time to sit with the young patient (seven years) and presented him with some early Christmas presents.

Kukucka (pictured), a part time university student studying Engineering, asked one of the nurses where do the ward names come from? We were told that they are actually named after benefactors.

The next stop was to see young patient, 11-year-old Kurt, who is a mad soccer supporter.

His mum says that he has really taken a liking to the sport, more so than any other. (You could imagine the look on his face when Daniel walked in the room.)

When asked who his favourite team was he said 'Parra

Power' and his favourite player, 'Daniel'.

It was evident that both players got a lot out of the day and enjoyed putting a smile on the kids' faces.

Burns said later: "Today was great. It was good to brighten up the children's faces especially around Christmas."

When asked if it was Kimberly Cooper who had lit up his face, he confessed that he didn't know who she was at first. When prompted that she was better known as Gypsy, he replied, "Yeah, she was really nice."

It was a fun day had by all and it's nice to see our national league clubs showing some interest towards sick children at this time of the year.

POWER HELPS OPEN P.J. GALLAGHERS

The previous night the Parra players were invited to the launch of a new venue in Parramatta. P.J. Gallaghers is an Irish pub that was formerly the General Bourke hotel, reports Aidan Ormond.

Plenty of good craic as the Irish might say, Power's Andrew Crews said he really liked the place. "Yeah, it's a great place to come and relax. It's certainly a lot different to the General Bourke, I like it, especially the decor, but I hope they don't let Barney Smith in!" he joked.

The jesting between Power's two keepers kept everyone entertained as the night featured a number of local identities and Irish entertainment.

Other Power players there who gave P.J. Gallaghers the thumbs up were Mile Sterjovski, John Gibson and John Angelucci.

A craicing good time can be had if you get down to PJ Gallaghers at 74 Church St Parramatta. Web site at (www.pjgallaghers.com.au)



KEANE STAYS AND UNITED BACK IN FORM

As perfect days go, it doesn't come much better than this for Manchester United. Their 3-0 win over Valencia was not the only good news to come out of Old Trafford.

Roy Keane slammed home a cracking opening goal with the ink still drying on his new four year contract, and United recaptured the form which had taken them all the way to the European title last season.

United started their assault on the talented Spaniards with a fanfare for Keane and a glittering exhibition of their striking talents.

Keane's new contract was announced over the loudspeakers just as the whistle went to start this crucial Champions League group B game that United knew they dare not lose after the defeat in Florence a fortnight ago.

The roar of approval battered the ears of United and their Spanish opponents, and set the high octane level of performance that was sustained by Sir Alex Ferguson's men throughout.

Ferguson had been quick to admit that United had not recaptured their European form of last season, but they managed it here.

Keane was the guide and inspiration, David Beckham the architect at his very best, while the rest of the United side clicked into top gear in spectacular fashion to inflict Valencia's first defeat in European competition this season.

Admittedly Valencia could have been ahead after just 40 seconds when Claudio Lopez saw a snap shot from 12 yards beaten away by Raimond van der Gouw, and then his follow-up shot held by the Dutch goalkeeper.

But from then on the first half was one of growing mastery by the European champions, who knew they needed a solid performance and result to wipe away the memory of that awful defeat by Fiorentina.

Two second half goals sealed it for the champions the first a well poached effort from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Beckham's ball in from the right was met by Solskjaer on the near post to stab the ball home, fully justifying his inclusion in the side at Dwight Yorke's expense.

And the icing on the cake came in the inimitable form of Paul Scholes who rose to loop in a header from a Beckham free kick over the helpless keeper.

Ferguson led the post-match celebrations with a tribute to his inspirational captain.

"To everyone associated with the club it's absolutely marvellous news," beamed Ferguson.

"We're very pleased ... delighted. I always felt he (Keane) would do that. When he delayed his decision I thought it was a good idea - a chance to think it over."

"We know we've got him for the next four years so we're happy with that."

"I get on well with Roy. I've got a good relationship with him. I made him my captain when other people thought ... 'Roy Keane' ... but Roy Keane epitomises

everything I believe in footballers," Ferguson told ITV.

Fiorentina are a point clear of Manchester United at the top of Champions League Group B after their goalless draw in Bordeaux.

The Italians, who shocked United 2-0 in their opening match in the group, held out comfortably despite lacking Gabriel Batistuta through suspension.

Portuguese star Rui Costa created the best of the visitors' chances, while Johan Micoud should have put the Frenchmen ahead with an early header.

Otherwise there was little action in a scrappy fixture which strengthened Fiorentina's hopes of qualification for the quarter-finals.

Patrick Kluivert and Luis Enrique scored two each, meanwhile, as Barcelona crushed 10-man Sparta Prague 5-0 in their Group A clash in Spain.

Sparta were in trouble from the start, with Rivaldo and Luis Figo launching wave after wave of attacks.

But they could not break through the resolute Czech defence until Sparta midfielder Martin Hasek was sent off on 38 minutes for a second yellow card.

Kluivert opened the scoring six minutes later, and Luis Enrique added the second moments later.

Josep Guardiola lobbed home a third 15 minutes into the second half, and Kluivert followed up with his second three minutes later.

Then Kluivert turned provider to let Luis Enrique wrap up the scoring.

Porto consolidated their position at the top of the same group with a 1-0 home win over Hertha Berlin.

Hertha adopted a purely defensive strategy and hoped to struggle to a 0-0 draw. It was a policy that almost worked until second-half substitute Ljubinko Drulovic entered the scene.

Drulovic ran the length of the field on 79 minutes after Hertha lost control of the ball in their own goal area. He beat Andreas Thom in a head-to-head sprint down the wing and stabbed the ball home.

Hertha's only decent chance to equalise came two-and-a-half minutes into injury time when unmarked Michael Preetz headed the ball on to the outside of the far post.

Porto ended the game a man short when Paulinho Santos was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Chelsea boss Gianluca Vialli was banished from the dug-out after a furious row with the fourth official in Rome - yet his mood will have improved considerably as his side secured a crucial Champions League goalless draw against Lazio.

The Blues may not have reached the heights of creative football they have produced in previous European games this season.

But what they needed far more against Lazio was the solid and determined display packed with resolve that they produced - indeed, exactly the qualities they have so patently lacked in so many

Premiership games this season.

The joint Serie A leaders, who defeated Manchester United to win the Super Cup earlier this season, never seriously threatened the visitors' goal and found Marcel Desailly and Frank Leboeuf, as well as goalkeeper Ed De Goey, in inspired form.

And so - yet again - Chelsea raised their game for the big occasion and with the Champions League now taking a well-earned break until March, the same attitude must be shown back at home.

At least Vialli can now focus solely on the Premiership and he will demand that his players show similar character against the likes of Coventry, Sheffield Wednesday and Southampton - even if he was forced to watch 35 minutes of the action in Rome on television.

The Chelsea boss, who has admitted to feeling the pressure of his side's faltering Premiership campaign, could not control his anger at a refereeing decision 10 minutes into the second half.

Tore Andre Flo had burst through and was taking aim inside the penalty area only to be hauled back by the referee's whistle as he was deemed to have fouled Fernando Couto en route to goal.

If Flo was angry at what he believed was flagrant play-acting by the Portuguese defender and Gustavo Poyet was incensed enough to rush up to make his feelings known in no uncertain terms, Vialli was absolutely livid.

He became embroiled in a furious stand-up row with the German fourth official Franz-Xaver Wack and when his remonstrations continued after play had finally restarted the Chelsea boss was sent from the touchline and stormed off in disgust.

When he finally reached a television screen in the bowels of the stadium at least he will have been pleased with the way that his side coped with everything Lazio threw at them in the closing stages, while Gianfranco Zola even went the closest to breaking the deadlock.

Vialli was prevented from giving a TV interview by UEFA after the match.

"The sending off of Luca was sad and definitely an over-reaction," said Chelsea's assistant coach Ray Wilkins.

"The FIFA official treated Vialli with disrespect and a man of Luca's standing deserves more."

"But he is very meticulous and was sending messages up to me. It was a terrific performance and we worked very hard."

"This isn't an easy place to come and we are all thrilled. Lazio are a very talented side and will be thereabouts in the competition but we merited a draw," added Wilkins.

Vialli was unwilling to discuss the incident in any detail and he later maintained: "I apologise if I did something wrong."

"Nobody is perfect and they sent me off. It was the first time it has happened to me as a manager and it will be the last."

Joking that the team had played even better after he left the sidelines, Vialli



Roy Keane ... a four year contract and a goal

praised the resolute determination of his players in responding so well to their humiliating 4-1 defeat at Sunderland just three days beforehand.

He added: "It was a great result. Lazio are a great team and they are not used to drawing games at home so that means we must have put in a great performance."

"Hopefully we have put Saturday's match behind us now and can concentrate in the future on doing a bit better when we play in domestic competitions," he added.

Ten-man Feyenoord bounced back from their heavy Champions League defeat at Chelsea with a 3-0 trouncing of Marseille in Holland.

The Dutch side, comprehensively outplayed when beaten 3-1 at Stamford Bridge two weeks ago in their first game of the competition's second phase, looked set for another difficult night when skipper Kees Van Wonderen was sent off after just seven minutes for crudely hauling down Florian Maurice.

But the French side were themselves reduced to nine men in their first Champions League action under new coach Bernard Casoni, who replaced Rolland Courbis last month.

Yannick Fischer and then former Blackburn midfielder Sébastien Perez were red-carded as Argentinian striker Julio Cruz scored either side of Paul Bosvelt's header.

But Feyenoord still lie only third in Group D, a point behind pacesetters Chelsea and Lazio.

Real Madrid put their domestic woes behind them to beat Rosenborg 3-1 and stamp their authority at the top of Group C.

Raul opened the scoring for Madrid in the 17th minute after firing home the rebound from a parried shot from Brazilian Savio.

John Carew equalised two minutes after the break but goals from Savio in the 84th minute and Roberto Carlos four minutes later gave Real, 5-1 losers at home to Real Zaragoza at the weekend, a comfortable win.

In the same group, Bayern Munich beat Dynamo Kiev 2-1 with Carsten Jancker and Paulo Sergio on target for last season's beaten finalists.

Serguei Rebrov hit the equaliser for Dynamo before Brazilian Sergio hit the winner with 10 minutes remaining.

Group A:

Barcelona 5 - 0 **Sparta Prague**
Kluivert (44, 63)
Luis Enrique (45, 76)
Guardiola (60)

Porto 1 - 0 **Hertha Berlin**
Drulovic (79)

Group B:

Bordeaux 0 - 0 **Fiorentina**

Manchester Utd 3 - 0 **Valencia**
Keane (38)
Solskjaer (47)
Scholes (69)

Group C:

Bayern Munich 2 - 1 **Dynamo Kiev**
Jancker (6)
Rébrov (50)
Paulo Sergio (80)

Real Madrid 3 - 1 **Rosenborg**
Raul (16)
Savio (85)
Roberto Carlos (90)

Group D:

Feyenoord 3 - 0 **Marseille**
Cruz (72, 90)
Bosvelt (83)

Lazio 0 - 0 **Chelsea**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Barcelona	2	1	1	0	6	1	4
Hertha Berlin	2	0	1	1	2	1	1
Sparta Prague	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fiorentina	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Manchester Utd	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Valencia	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Bordeaux	2	0	1	1	0	3	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Bayern Munich	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Rosenborg	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Dynamo Kiev	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Lazio	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Feyenoord	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Marseille	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

COMPILED BY INSIDE SOCCER

LEEDS SQUEEZE THROUGH BUT RANGERS OUT



Barry Ferguson ... part of the Rangers team that went down on penalties to Dortmund.

Leeds' great European adventure continued at Elland Road as manager David O'Leary's wonderkids produced a breathtakingly passionate performance to book their place in the last 16 of the UEFA Cup.

Leeds' free-flowing, energetic football, particularly during a dynamic second half, eventually brought them the goal they so richly deserved just six minutes from time by skipper Lucas Radebe.

It was only the South African international's third during his illustrious career, but this was undoubtedly the most important as United stretched their remarkable run to just two defeats in 19 games.

Leeds looked as if they were going to be ultimately denied by a substitute goalkeeper who stood tall in every sense of the phrase as Andrei Smetanin's giant frame was almost the dividing line between success and failure.

Smetanin was forced to come on late in the first period for Alexander Filimonov, who had fallen awkwardly in punching clear an Ian Harte free-kick, and he proceeded to keep United at bay with a string of stunning saves until the 84th minute.

Leeds' attacking display, full of drive and purpose, was perhaps arguably their best of this season despite the fact they currently lead the way in the Premiership.

On another night they could perhaps have scored at least three and maybe four - but the one was enough as nerves frayed and pulses raced during those pulsating closing moments.

It was another case of Leeds' last-gasp heroics, a feat they had managed on three separate occasions this season by stealing a goal in the dying seconds - although this was positively early in comparison.

Stephen McPhail's delivery was whipped into the far post and there was Radebe - suspended for last week's first leg - to end up a captain marvel and send a 40,000 Elland Road crowd into wild scenes of delirium.

Following the clash a jubilant Radebe

said: "I don't score too many goals but it's one many people will talk about."

Talking about the goal - only the third of his career - skipper Radebe said: "We won a corner, the ball came over and I headed it in."

"I went in with the keeper, stuck my head in and there it was. It was a brilliant goal and I really enjoyed it."

"We knew we had nothing to lose. We had to get forward and get the first goal. We've been scoring late goals and today we knew we had to keep going until the whistle," he told Sky Sports.

Asked if he felt Leeds could make even more progress in the competition, Radebe added: "We take each game as it comes."

"We've got a great bunch of lads and this season we set ourselves a target to do better than last year. We have taken a step up and we will take our chances."

Goalkeeper Jens Lehmann ended Rangers' dream of UEFA Cup glory after a dramatic evening at the Westfalenstadion.

Lehmann joined up with the attack in the 90th minute and had a hand in Fredi Bobic's equaliser, which took the game into extra-time.

Then he saved three penalties in the shoot-out to give his side a place in the last 16.

Rangers were firm favourites to progress after their 2-0 victory in the first leg - but they were always second best this time.

Dortmund eventually broke the deadlock in the 29th minute to halve the deficit in the tie.

Christian Worms swung in a corner from the left, and although Myhre got a hand to Victor Ikpeba's header he was unable to prevent it finding the net.

Ikpeba, preferred in the starting line-up to Fredi Bobic, almost added a spectacular second but his overhead kick finished marginally wide of the target.

Albertz, who had been having pain-killing injections on his ankle injury, did not reappear in the second half.

He was replaced by Gordon Durie, with the former Scotland striker joining Wallace and McCann in the front line.

Rangers were looking more confident as the game entered its final stages, and Barry Ferguson strode forward only to drag his 20-yard effort wide of the target.

Dortmund then sensationally pulled level on aggregate in stoppage time when sub Bobic fired home after the ball had been touched on by Lehmann, up with the attack, to take the game into extra-time.

Rangers had a scare eight minutes into extra-time when Bobic found himself in space but blazed the ball high over the bar.

McCann should have given Rangers

the lead on aggregate three minutes later when Tony Vidmar played the ball into his path. But somehow, from almost on the goalline, he managed to steer his effort wide.

But the tie would be decided on penalty kicks.

Rangers paid for the paucity of their overall performance with Lehmann saving from van Bronckhorst, Numan and Claudio Reyna. Only Amoruso converted his spot-kick - and Rangers were out.

Dejected Rangers captain Lorenzo Amoruso claimed everything went against the Ibrox outfit.

Amoruso said: "It was a cruel way to lose. Everything went the other way for us today. They scored twice with the second goal in injury time.

"We lost two stupid goals, missed a great chance to score ourselves in extra-time then were unfortunate with the penalties.

"It's unbelievable. After the first leg no-one was expecting us to lose like this."

But the Italian defender admitted there is now a need for Rangers to absorb the lessons of the dramatic defeat in Germany for future European campaigns.

He said: "We realise that we need to improve because away from Ibrox I think we lose too many goals."

Arsenal booked their place in the next round of the UEFA Cup after a thrilling 3-3 draw with Nantes in France on Thursday night.

The Gunners, 3-0 up from the first leg at Highbury, progressed to the next stage with a 6-3 aggregate success.

They were in trouble early when they went behind after just 12 minutes.

But goals from Gilles Grimandi, Thierry Henry and Marc Overmars gave them a 3-1 interval lead.

Nantes, playing some attractive football, earned a creditable draw on the night with a spirited second-half comeback.

But they couldn't come close to threatening an amazing turnaround in the tie.

It looked like being an uncomfortable night for Arsene Wenger's men when Nantes reduced the overall deficit to two goals early on.

Antoine Sibierski broke the deadlock with a stunning 25-yard strike past Alex Manninger from a free-kick.

It took Arsenal just 12 more minutes to draw level on the night and virtually kill off the tie.

French defender Grimandi, on target at Leicester last Saturday, struck again following good work by Patrick Vieira and Henry.

On 31 minutes it was 2-1 to Arsenal on the night, Nigerian Nwankwo Kanu lifting a magnificent ball over the Nantes defence for Henry to rifle the ball home.

Arsenal got their third goal three minutes before the break when Overmars latched onto a through ball from Emmanuel Petit before finishing coolly.

After the interval Arsenal took their foot off the gas and Nantes prospered again.

Sibierski was again the goalscorer, with another superb strike from distance.

Thirteen minutes from time 19-year-old substitute Maram Vahirua rounded off an entertaining night by beating Tony Adams to make it 3-3 on the night.

Following the match Arsenal boss Wenger said: "They could have been three goals up after 15 minutes and then in the second half we just stopped playing and they got on top.

"It's not easy when you are leading 3-0 from the first leg to have the right concentration.

"But even after the first few minutes I felt we would score and that if they got two or three we would still be able to come back.

"The heavy pitch played a major part because it was difficult to play quick, passing football and they looked as though they were used to it."

Newcastle bowed out of the UEFA Cup after being held to a 0-0 draw by Roma at St James' Park.

Bobby Robson's men went out 1-0 on aggregate, courtesy of a Francesco Totti penalty in the Italian capital a fortnight ago.

Magpies forward Temuri Ketsbaia passed up the game's two best opportunities either side of half-time as the home side struggled to fashion scoring chances.

The Georgian had a great chance to open the scoring on 31 minutes when Robert Lee muscled his way through and played him in on the left side of the penalty area.

But Roma goalkeeper Francesco Antonioli was quick off his line to block his effort.

Antonioli again preserved his side's narrow lead on 62 minutes when Kieron Dyer prodded Alan Shearer's knockdown into Ketsbaia's path and Antonioli got down well to turn his effort away.

Newcastle piled forward as time ran out but it was the visitors who almost snatched it at the death, Totti chipping just over the bar with Steve Harper beaten and Marco Delvecchio firing into the side-netting with Cafu unmarked in the centre.

Newcastle boss Robson was far from down afterwards, and said: "When I think of how it was when I took over here three months ago it would have been impossible for us to have played Roma twice and just lost on an indifferent penalty," he said.

"The club and the team have come a long way, and we must just look at that and evaluate that and look forward to the second half of the season."

Bor. Dortmund 2 - 0 Rangers

Victor Ikpeba (28)

Fredi Bobic (92)

Aggregate: 2-2

(Dortmund win 3-1 on pens)

Juventus 1 - 2 Olympiakos

Darko Kovacevic (3) Predrag Djordjevic (37), (82)

Aggregate: 4 - 3

Werder Bremen 4 - 0 Lyon

Marco Bode (17)

A Herzog (pen 39)

Frank Baumann (54)

Claudio Pizarro (78)

Aggregate: 4 - 3

Atletico Madrid 2 - 1 VfL Wolfsburg
Hasselbaink (5) Akonnor (pen 57)
Correa (87)
Aggregate: 5 - 3

B. Leverkusen 1 - 2 Udinese
Ballack (24) Margiotta (12, 21)
Aggregate: 2 - 2 Udinese win on away goals

Galatasaray 2 - 1 Bologna
Hasan Sas (5) Ventola (8)
Umit (28)
Aggregate: 3 - 2

Benfica 1 - 1 Celta Vigo
Caceres (og 78) McCarthy (19)
Aggregate: 1 - 8

Kaiserslautern 1 - 4 Lens

Hristov (21) Job (20, 40)
Strasser (56)
Nyarko (90)

Aggregate: 3 - 5
Leeds United 1 - 0 Spartak Moscow

Radebe (84)
Aggregate: 2 - 2 Leeds win on away goals

Monaco 1 - 0 AEK Athens
Simone (32)
Aggregate: 3 - 2

Nantes 3 - 3 Arsenal
Sibierski (12, 60) Grimandi (24)
Vahirua (77) Henry (31)
Overmars (42)
Aggregate: 3 - 6

Newcastle UtD 0 - 0 Roma

Aggregate: 0 - 1

Panathinaikos 1 - 1 Dep La Coruna

Asanovic (pen 77) Macay (90)

Aggregate: 3 - 5

Real Mallorca 2 - 0 Ajax

P Soler (3)

Biagini (73)

Aggregate: 3 - 0

Ste. Bucharest 1 - 1 Slavia Praha

Ciocoiu (45) Dostalek (49)

Aggregate: 2 - 5

Sturm Graz 3 - 3 Parma

Reinmayr (67, 94) Stanic (4, 108)

Vastic (86) Crespo (120)

Aggregate: 4 - 5 (AET)

MINNOWS TAKE TO CENTRE STAGE IN UPSETS

The minnows wasted no time producing the shocks when the FA Cup third round got under way on Friday night.

Cash-starved Nationwide One strugglers Crystal Palace crashed out 2-0 at Division Two Cambridge United.

And David Platt's Nottingham Forest survived for a replay after drawing 1-1 at home with Oxford United, from a division below.

Palace, still in receivership, went behind after 74 minutes to a Trevor Benjamin goal and Paul Wanless sealed the victory seven minutes later.

To make matters worse, Palace also had Hayden Mullins sent off just before the end for a second bookable offence.

Meanwhile Platt saw Oxford heap more pressure on him even after Scottish striker Dougie Freedman gave his side a first-half lead.

The former Barnet and Wolves hit-man was on target six minutes before the break.

But Forest's joy did not last. After 75 minutes, the Us stunned them when Paul Powell grabbed a valuable equaliser.

Premiership giants West Ham, Middlesbrough and Derby all crashed out on a day of shocks in the FA Cup third round.

The Hammers lost 1-0 at Nationwide One Tranmere, while Boro lost 2-1 at Nationwide Two Wrexham.

Derby were beaten 1-0 at home by another Nationwide Two side Burnley to complete a day of misery for the top flight.

At Prenton Park Nick Henry's 21st-minute goal was enough to give Rovers a famous win.

The Hammers had fallen at the same stage to lowly Swansea last season, and this was their sixth defeat by lower-league opposition in the last eight years.

It was Tranmere's seventh successive victory.

At the Racecourse Ground Wrexham, who knocked out Arsenal in 1992 and West Ham in 1997, created another major upset.

Brian Deane opened the scoring for Bryan Robson's side with a deflected shot three minutes before the end of the first half.

But Robin Gibson levelled things for the Welshmen five minutes into the second

half.

And then Darren Ferguson, son of watching Manchester United boss Sir Alex, gave Wrexham a famous success with the winner on 68.

Derby looked potential giant-killing victims before kick-off, having lost seven out of their nine Premiership home games this term.

And that miserable form continued in the Cup as they fell to a header from Andy Cooke on 62 minutes.

Watford were the fourth Premiership side beaten by lower division opposition.

They lost 1-0 at home to Nationwide One Birmingham, Gary Rowett's goal on 66 minutes separating the sides.

Earlier in the day non-league Hereford and Nationwide Three Exeter both gained very creditable draws against top-flight opposition.

Hereford held Leicester City to a goalless draw at Edgar Street.

And at St James' Park Exeter goalkeepers Stuart Naylor and Jason Matthews also kept the scoresheet blank as Exeter held Everton.

Naylor had to be replaced by Matthews at half-time following a collision with Kevin Campbell.

But the young sub performed heroics to earn Exeter a replay.

Chelsea avoided a potential banana skin as they crushed Hull City 6-1 at Boothferry Park.

Gianluca Vialli's cosmopolitan outfit have struggled domestically so far this term.

But they never looked like giant-killing victims as Gus Poyet hammered home a superb hat-trick.

The Uruguayan opened the scoring for the Blues on eight minutes and Chris Sutton doubled the lead on the half hour with a diving header.

Hull fought back well though and David Brown capitalised on a mix-up between Frank Leboeuf and Jes Hogh to pull one back on 38 minutes.

Any hope the Tigers had disappeared quickly after the interval as Roberto Di Matteo made it 3-1 for Chelsea on 47 minutes.

Poyet then struck on 49 and 58 to complete his hat-trick and put the result beyond any doubt.

Mike Edwards diverted a Dennis Wise shot into his own net for Chelsea's sixth in stoppage time.

Aston Villa lifted a little of the pressure on boss John Gregory, but only just, by seeing off "lucky losers" Darlington 2-1 at Villa Park.

Villa struggled to fashion chances in the early stages but

Benito Carbone finally broke the deadlock two minutes before the break.

Dion Dublin seemed to have made sure of Villa's progress to round four with a second goal on 63 minutes.

But Paul Heckingbottom pulled one back for the underdogs on 71 to give Villa a nervy final period.

Coventry came through a tricky tie at Carrow Road by beating Norwich 3-1.

Noel Whelan put the Premiership side ahead on 58 minutes, but Chris Llewellyn levelled for the Canaries on 66.

Then Cedric Roussel got the winner for the Sky Blues 14 minutes from time, courtesy of a goalkeeping error by Andy Marshall.

John Eustace got a third for Coventry six minutes from the end.

Sunderland were made to fight all the way before beating Portsmouth 1-0 at the Stadium of Light.

Gavin McCann put the Premiership high-fliers in front after 24 minutes.

And a huge task was made much harder for managerless Pompey when Mike Panopoulos was sent off five minutes before half-time for a foul on Michael Gray.

Wimbledon spoiled former boss Dave Bassett's return to the club as they beat Barnsley 1-0 at Selhurst Park.

Carl Cort got the only goal for the Dons on 34 minutes.

Sheffield Wednesday, bottom of the Premiership, got a much-needed boost as they beat Bristol City 1-0 at Hillsborough.

Andy Booth got the all-important goal for the Owls on 24 minutes.

Wednesday had youngster Alan Quinn sent off in the dying minutes for clattering into Shaun Taylor.

Another struggling Premiership team Bradford reached the next round by winning 2-1 at Crewe.

Robbie Blake got opening goal for the Bantams eight minutes into the second half.

Colin Little did level for Alex 15 minutes from time, but Dean Saunders got the winner for Bradford on 83.

Luton produced a fine performance to draw 2-2 at Nationwide One promotion hopefuls Fulham.

Liam George put the Hatters in front after just six minutes, but the prolific Geoff Horsfield levelled five minutes later.

Sean Davis gave Fulham the lead on 14 minutes.

But Matthew Spring netted eight minutes from time to earn Luton a second bite of the cherry.

Charlton won an all-Nationwide One battle at the Valley by beating Swindon 2-1.

Mark Kinsella broke the deadlock for the Addicks on 48 minutes, but Ty Gooden levelled for Swindon six minutes later.

Kinsella's second goal on 61 minutes was enough to settle the tie for the home side.

West Brom and Blackburn must replay after a thrilling 2-2 draw at the Hawthorns.

Rovers took the lead on 65 minutes through Per Frandsen, but Lee Hughes levelled for the Baggies just a minute later.

Nathan Blake put Rovers back in front on 70 minutes, but Micky Evans got another



Noel Whelan ... a scorer for Coventry.

equaliser on 80 for Albion.

Grimsby scored twice in the last two minutes to beat Stockport 3-2.

Steve Livingstone put the Mariners in front after 34 minutes.

But Alan Bailey levelled for County 18 minutes into the second half.

And when Ian Moore netted for the visitors nine minutes from time it looked all up for Grimsby.

But Livingstone got his second a minute from time to level things up.

And Bradley Allen got the winner in stoppage time.

Wolves progressed to round four with a last-gasp winner at Wigan.

After 90 goalless minutes Carl Robinson finally broke the deadlock for the visitors in injury time.

Preston beat Oldham 2-1 at Deepdale.

Jon Macken opened the scoring for North End after just six minutes.

Graham Alexander clinched victory for the home side with a penalty on 69 minutes.

Neil Adams did get a late consolation for Latics on 85 minutes.

Torquay produced a minor shock as they earned a very creditable 1-1 draw at QPR.

Stuart Wardley was on the mark early for Gerry Francis' side, netting just nine minutes in.

But Michael O'Brien scored on 82 to earn Torquay a replay.

Nationwide One Walsall needed a late equaliser to earn a replay against Nationwide Two Gillingham.

Nicky Southall opened the scoring for the Gills on 27 minutes at Bescot Stadium.

But Mark Robins levelled for the Saddlers from the spot 15 minutes from the end.

Reading and Plymouth must replay after drawing 1-1 at Madejski Stadium.

Jim McIntyre put the home side in front on 37 minutes, but Chris Hargreaves equalised eight minutes from the end.

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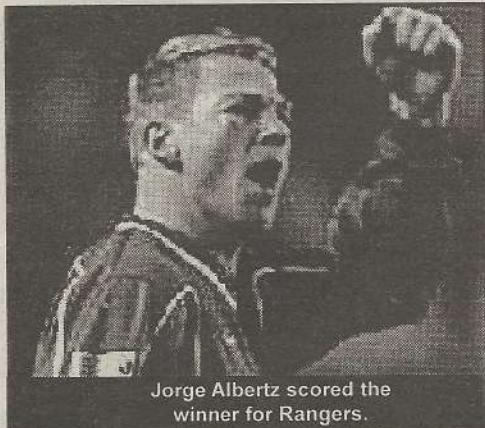
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CELTIC HIT SIX, RANGERS STRUGGLE



Jorge Albertz scored the winner for Rangers.

Celtic destroyed Aberdeen's hopes of recording their third successive win with a crushing 6-0 victory at Pittodrie on Saturday.

The Dons had come into the game thinking they could at least compete with the Glasgow giants - to whom they had conceded 12 goals in two previous encounters.

But Celtic were in no mood to accommodate Ebbe Skovdahl's relegation-threatened side and when Paul Lambert opened the scoring on 21 minutes there was a sense of déjà vu about what was to follow.

Stephane Mahe added a second seven minutes later to give the Bhoys a comfortable advantage at the break.

And there was more one-way traffic in the

second period as goals from Lubo Moravcik (67), Mark Viduka (75), Regi Blinker (81) and Ian Wright (87) wrapped up yet another easy win for Celtic, who must wish they could play the Dons every week.

Rangers put a disastrous week both on and off the field behind them to stay a point clear at the top with a narrow 1-0 win over Kilmarnock at Ibrox.

A goal from Jorg Albertz in the 56th minute was enough to maintain the Gers at the top of the Scottish Premier league table, but it was a far from vintage performance.

German star Albertz apart the home side were lethargic and served up generally poor fare for another huge crowd which had turned out to back the Glasgow giants despite three successive defeats.

Rangers still gave two games in hand on their Old Firm rivals.

Hibernian and Motherwell fought out a pulsating 2-2 draw in the day's other top-flight match at Easter Road.

Hibs defender Pat McGinlay seemed to have stolen the points when he put the home side 2-1 up in the 88th minute.

But John Spencer spoiled the party for the Edinburgh outfit with his second goal of the afternoon just a minute later.

Spencer's first effort - on 70 minutes - had earlier brought Motherwell level after Mixu Paatelainen had put Hibs ahead after 63 minutes.

In the other game Dundee United beat Dundee 1-0.

The match between St Johnstone and Hearts was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Aberdeen (0) 0 Celtic (2) 6
Aberdeen: Leighton, Perry (McGuire 75), Whyte, Jess (Zerouali 55), Winters, Dow (Belabed 64), Bernard, Anderson, Guntveit, McAllister, Stavrum.

Booked: Bernard, Leighton.

Celtic: Gould, McNamara, Stubbs, Tebily, Mahe, Lambert (Blinker 75), Wieghorst, Berkovic (Petrov 64), Mjallby, Viduka, Moravcik (Wright 74).

Booked: Tebily.

Goals: Lambert 21, Mahe 28, Moravcik 67, Viduka 75, Blinker 81, Wright 87.

Att: 16,532

Rangers (0) 1 Kilmarnock (0) 0
Rangers: Myhre, Wilson, Amoruso, Numan, Vidmar, B. Ferguson, Reyna (I. Ferguson 90), McCann, Albertz, Wallace (Kanchelskis 80), Dodds (Durie 90).

Booked: Wilson.

Goals: Albertz 56.

Kilmarnock: Meldrum, Canero, Lauchlan, Dindeleux, Hay, Cocard, Reilly, Holt, Durrant (Burke 87), Mitchell, Smith.

Booked: Canero.

Att: 47,169

Dundee Utd (0) 1 Dundee (0) 0

Dundee Utd: Combe, De Vos, Pascual, Partridge, Davidson, Hannah, Easton, Telesnikov (Worrell 53), Smith, Thompson, McConalogue (Ferraz 50).

Booked: Ferraz.

Goals: Ferraz 88.

Dundee: Douglas, Tweed, Smith, Wilkie (Banger 17), Van Eijs (Grady 90), Boyack, Rae, Billio, McSkimming (Robertson 72), Annand, Falconer.

Booked: Annand.

Att: 9,185

Hibernian (0) 2 Motherwell (0) 2

Hibernian: Colgan, Collins, Hughes, Dennis, Smith, Lovell, Sauzee (McGinlay 79), Latapy, Brebner, Paatelainen, Miller (Hartley 85).

Booked: Dennis.

Goals: Paatelainen 63, McGinlay 88.

Motherwell: Woods, Doesburg, Kemble, Teale, McMillan, Nevin (Harvey 79), Brannan, Valakari, Townsley, Spencer, Halliday (Nicholas 54).

Booked: Valakari.

Goals: Spencer 70, 89.

Att: 9,955

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Leeds	17	12	2	3	30	19	38	11
Man Utd	16	11	3	2	40	21	36	19
Arsenal	17	11	2	4	31	16	35	15
Sunderland	17	10	4	3	31	17	34	14
Liverpool	17	9	3	5	24	14	30	10
Leicester	17	9	2	6	26	23	29	3
Tottenham	16	8	3	5	25	20	27	5
West Ham	16	7	4	5	17	14	25	3
Chelsea	15	7	3	5	21	15	24	6
Middlesbrough	17	7	3	7	21	24	24	-3
Coventry	17	5	6	6	23	18	21	5
Everton	17	5	6	6	25	27	21	-2
Wimbledon	17	4	8	5	27	29	20	-2
Newcastle	17	5	4	8	28	30	19	-2
Aston Villa	17	5	4	8	14	19	19	-5
Southampton	16	4	5	7	20	25	17	-5
Bradford	16	3	4	9	13	25	13	-12
Derby	17	3	3	11	15	29	12	-14
Watford	17	3	2	12	13	33	11	-20
Sheff Wed	16	1	3	12	14	40	6	-26

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

P W D L F A Pts GD

	Huddersfield	22	13	4	5	39	22	43	17
Man City	22	13	3	6	32	19	42	13	
Charlton	21	12	4	5	38	24	40	14	
Ipswich	22	11	6	5	37	25	39	12	
Barnsley	21	11	3	7	39	33	36	6	
Stockport	22	9	7	6	27	30	34	-3	
Fulham	21	8	9	4	24	18	33	6	
Birmingham	21	8	8	5	32	23	32	9	
QPR	22	8	8	6	32	28	32	4	
Bolton	22	8	7	7	32	26	31	6	
Blackburn	21	7	9	5	26	20	30	6	
Wolverhampton	20	7	8	5	23	19	29	4	
Tranmere	22	8	5	9	31	32	29	-1	
Norwich	21	7	7	7	19	19	28	0	
West Brom	21	5	10	6	21	23	25	-2	
Crystal Palace	22	6	7	9	30	36	25	-6	
Grimsby	21	7	4	10	22	34	25	-12	
Crewe	21	6	5	10	22	29	23	-7	
Port Vale	22	5	7	10	26	31	22	-5	
Nottm Forest	21	5	6	10	23	27	21	-4	
Portsmouth	22	5	6	11	25	36	21	-11	
Sheff Utd	22	5	6	11	25	38	21	-13	
Walsall	22	4	7	11	19	34	19	-15	
Swindon	22	3	8	11	16	34	17	-18	

	Peterborough	20	10	4	6	28	22	34	6
Torquay	20	9	6	5	27	21	33	5	
Plymouth	20	9	4	8	22	23	31	6	
Halifax	21	9	3	9	26	21	30	5	
Hartlepool	21	8	6	7	18	14	30	4	
Rochdale	21	8	6	7	31	29	30	2	
Macclesfield	21	8	6	7	31	29	30	2	
Lincoln City	20	7	7	6	31	30	28	1	
Southend	21	8	4	9	27	30	28	-3	
Brighton	20	7	6	7	30	24	27	6	
Cheltenham	21	7	5	9	18	19	26	-1	
Exeter	20	7	4	9	22	25	25	-3	
York	20	6	6	8	18	25	24	-7	
Hull	20	6	5	9	18	21	23	-3	
Mansfield	19	6	4	9	25	29	22		

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE - ROUND TWELVE

NORTHERN SPIRIT V ADELAIDE FORCE

1	John Perosh
2	Robert Enes
3	Matthew Langdon
4	Matthew Bingley
5	Mark Rudan
6	Luke Casserley
7	Robbie Slater
8	Tony Perinich
9	David Seal
11	Troy Cranney
12	Simon Catanzaro
13	Philip Moss
14	Shane Lyons
15	Anthony Faria
17	Paul Bilokapic
18	Paul Wearne
20	Jess Van Stratten
21	Michael Cunico
22	Paul Henderson
23	Adam Snyder
24	Elvis Olic
25	Ryan Griffiths
26	Jack Sobczyk
27	Adam Griffiths
28	Abbas Saad
29	Ian Crook
30	Sean Cranney



1	Vilson Knezevic
2	Ivan Zelic
3	Alex Tobin
4	Carlo Talladira
5	Damian Mori
6	Carl Veart
7	Nick Sabljak
8	Aurelio Vidmar
9	
10	
11	
12	Nathan Day
13	John Fusco
14	Michael Cartwright
15	Louis Brain
16	Matthew Kemp
17	Angelo Costanzo
18	Bradley Hassell
19	
20	
21	Dong Ki Kim
22	
23	Jonathan Lihou



Venue: North Sydney Oval - Friday 17 December 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 2 Spirit wins: 1 Force wins: 1 Draws 0
 Last Week: Spirit 0-1 away win over Knights
 Force 1-2 home loss to Wolves

GIPPSLAND FALCONS V MARCONI STALLIONS

1	Bojo Jevdjevic
2	Dean Fak
3	Manny Gotis
4	Mehmed Durakovic
5	Jeff Hopkins
6	Brian MacNichol
7	Andy Vargas
8	Clayton Bell
9	Robbie Puca
10	Sandy Robertson
11	John Hutchinson
12	Peter Kakos
13	Adrian Savage
14	Doug Marcina
15	Jonathon Buhugiar
16	Juan Nilo
17	Will Hastie
18	Michael Katz
19	Ivan Mandic
20	Simon Miotto



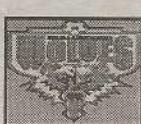
1	Michael Turnbull
2	Chad Gibson
3	Mark Babic
4	
5	Dominic Longo
6	Pan-Keum Kim
7	Christian Care
8	Darren McDonald
9	Zeljko Babic
10	Brad Maloney
11	Mike Smith
13	Danny Invincible
14	Buddy Farah
15	Pierluigi di Gia
16	Alex Duric
17	Francis Awaritefe
18	Harry Karl
19	Brendan Ranaud
20	David Aceski
21	Paolo Marchesini
22	Kris Trajanovski
23	Viado Zoric
24	Josaias Junior Sauturaga
26	Daniel Severino



Venue: Falcons Stadium - Saturday 18 December 1999 7.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 15 Falcons: 1 Stallions wins: 9 Draws 5
 Last Week: Falcons 0-1 away win over Strikers
 Stallions 0-3 home loss to Kingz

WOLLONGONG WOLVES V CANBERRA COSMOS

1	Leslie Pogliacomi
2	George Souris
3	Alvin Ceccoli
4	Robert Stanton
5	David Cervinksi
6	Matthew Horsley
7	Paul Reid
8	Anthony Surjan
9	Sasho Dimoski
10	Stuart Young
11	Scott Chipperfield
12	Neil Harlock
13	Noel Spencer
14	Saso Petrovski
15	David Huxley
16	Peter Lahanas
17	Esala Masi
18	Chad Bishop
19	Paul Dimech
20	Daniel Berlirame
21	Christian Zelvis



1	David Milin
2	Toplica Popovich
3	Danny Burt
4	Nicholas Purdue
5	Jason Polak
6	David Winnie
7	Daniel Watkins
8	Alex Castro
9	Michael Musitano
10	David Arranz
11	Brian Hamilton
12	Harry James
13	Glen Kolpak
14	Ilija Prenoski
15	Robbie Hooker
16	Nikola Mrdja
17	Geoff Howarth
18	Grant Barlow
19	Scott Conlon
20	Elliot Zwangobani
21	PJ Roberts
22	Ivo De Jesus
23	Gabriel Gonzalez
24	Angelo Konstantinou



Venue: Brandon Park - Sunday 19 December 6.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 15 Wolves wins: 6 Cosmos wins: 5 Draws: 4
 Last Week: Wolves 1-2 away win over Force
 Cosmos 1-3 home loss to Olympic

FOOTBALL KINGZ V MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

1	Michael Utting
2	Che Bunce
3	Riki Van Steeden
4	Fabio Macolino
5	Jonathon Perry
6	Marcus Stergiopoulos
7	Wynton Rufer
8	Chris Jackson
9	Fred de Jong
10	Dino Mennillo
11	Robbie Middleby
12	Harry Ngata
13	Levent Osman
14	Baturum Suri
15	Ivan Vicelich
16	Lee Jones
17	Maciel Edmilson
18	Stuart Riddle
19	Leigh Kenyon
20	Jason Batty
21	David Moya
22	Aaron Silva
23	Simon Eddy



Venue: North Harbour Stadium - Friday 17 December 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played N/A
 Last Week: Kingz 0-3 away win over Marconi
 Knights 0-1 home loss to Spirit

TELECAST FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER 1999 5.30PM
 C7 SPORT CHANNEL 13

SYDNEY UNITED V PARRAMATTA POWER

1	John Crawley
2	Ray Younis
3	Mark Racker
4	Velimir Kupresak
5	Eddie Bosnar
6	Vince Savocca
7	Mirko Jurilj
8	Nahuel Arrarte
9	Mario Jermen
10	Ante Moric
11	Tom Pondeljak
12	Tom Maric
13	Matthew Zec
14	Kain Rastall
15	Aytec Genc
16	Joe Moric
17	Nick Bovesci
18	Steve Bozinovski
19	Greg Saric
20	Steve Tolios
25	Ante Deak
30	Brett Hughes



Venue: Sydney United Sports Centre - Sunday 19 December 6.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 1 United wins: 0 Power wins: 0 Draws 1
 Last Week: United 3-1 away loss to Carlton
 Power 0-1 home loss to Breakers

SOUTH MELBOURNE V CARLTON

1	Milan Udvaracz
2	Steve Iosifidis
3	Fausto de Amicis
4	Nick Orlic
5	Con Blatsis
6	David Clarkson
7	Steve Panopoulos
8	Vaughn Coveny
9	Paul Trimboli
10	Michael Curcija
11	John Anastasiadis
12	Richie Alagich
13	Adrian Cuzzupe
14	Anthony Magnacca
15	Goran Lozanovski
16	George Goutzoulis
17	Jim Tsekiris
18	Robert Liparoti
19	Tasos Psonis
20	Chris Jones
21	Mustafa Mustafa



Venue: Bob Jane Stadium - Sunday 19 December 6.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 6 South Melbourne wins: 3 Carlton wins: 1 Draws 2
 Last Week: South Melbourne 3-1 away loss to Glory
 Carlton 3-1 home win over Sydney United

LIVE FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER 7.30 PM

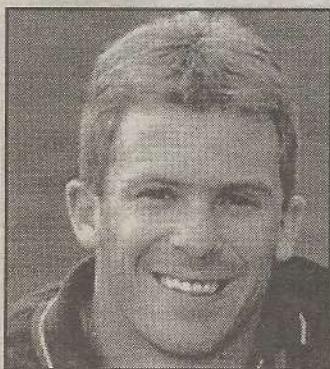
C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS V PERTH GLORY



BREAKERS
1 Bob Catlin
2 Shane Pryce
3 Andrew Roberts
4 Adam Sanderson
5 Todd McManus
6 Glenn Sprod (below)
7 Travis Dodd
8 Mark Wilson
9 Chris Tancheski
10 John Buonavoglia
11 Luke Tomich
12 Robert Angelovski
13 Brad Wieczorek
14 Greg Owens
15 Joshua Ferguson
16 Vasko Trpevski
17 Paul Wheeler
18 Andrew Harper
19 Chad Mansley
20 Bradley Swancott
21 Peter Juchniewicz
22 Glenn Moore
23 Damien Smith

GLORY
1 Danny Milosevic
2 Robert Trajkovski
3 Jamie Harnwell
4 Vinko Buljubasic
5 Gareth Naven
6 Scott Miller
7 Troy Halpin
8 Alistair Edwards
9 Bobby Despotoski
10 Kasey Wehrman
11 Peter Buljan
12 James Afkos
13 Dion Valle
14 Edgar Junior
15 Con Boutsanis
16 Vas Kalogeracos
17 Hamilton Thorp
18 John Carbone
19 Tony Franken
20 Ivan Ergic
21 Jason Petkovic



Venue: Breakers Stadium
Friday 17 December 7.30PM
Head-to-Head: 6
Breakers: 4
Glory: 2
Draws: 0
Last Week:
Breakers: 0-1 away win over Power
Glory: 3-1 home win over South Melbourne



LIVE SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 6.30 PM

C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

SYDNEY OLYMPIC V BRISBANE STRIKERS



OLYMPIC
1 Jim Kourtis
2 Scott Thomas
3 Chris Zoricich
4 Peter Tselenis
5 Scott Baillie
6 Ante Juric
7 Zlatko Arambasic
8 Marcus Phillips
9 Pablo Cardozo
10 Brett Emerton (below)
11 Chris Kalantzis
12 Sebastian Sinozic
13 Gabriel Mendez
15 Lindsay Wilson
16
17 Paul Kohler
18 John Kyriazopoulos
19 Nick Carle
20 George Bouhoutsos
21 Lee Miot
22 Pete Zorbas
23 Dylan Macallister
24 Norman Tome
25 Hussein Jomaa
26 Adam Ciantar
30 John Karoubas

STRIKERS
1 Clint Bolton
2 Glenn Gwynne
3 Shane Stefanutto
4 Andrew Davidson
5 Matthew Belli
6 Brad Dutton
7 Shane Smeltz
8 David Pillic
9 Paul Foster
10 Wayne Srhoj
11 Greg Di Losa
12 Peter Dwyer
13 Stuart McLaren
14 Jade North
15 Leo Langone
16 Peter Grierson
17 Jeremy Harris
18 Nick Meredith
19 Wade Baldwin
20 Daniel Duke



Venue: Belmore Sports Ground
Sunday 19 December 6.30PM
Head to Head: 17
Olympic: 9
Strikers: 6
Draws: 2
Last Week:
Olympic: 1-3 away win over Cosmos
Strikers: 0-1 home loss to Falcons



See more soccer

This weekend's telecasts

Newcastle Breakers v Perth Glory Friday night.

Football Kingz v Melbourne Knights Friday night.

Sydney Olympic v Brisbane Strikers Sunday night.

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